

Charles Septimus Webb
4 Horse Guards Parade

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. X.—NEW SERIES, No. 223.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1850.

[PRICE 6d.

SECOND TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

IN conformity with the constitution of the Anti-state-church Association, the Executive Committee beg to announce its sitting at the Theatre of the CITY OF LONDON LITERARY INSTITUTION,* Aldergate-street, on TUESDAY, the 30th of APRIL, at ten o'clock, a.m.

The Conference will be composed of,

1. DELEGATES appointed by Public Meetings, or Meetings of congregations, publicly convened.

2. DELEGATES appointed in writing by persons residing in any Town, Borough, or Parish, or in more than one united; the signatures of not fewer than 50 persons being required for one Delegate, and not fewer than 100 for two Delegates.

In all cases it is to be distinctly understood that the persons delegated concur in the Society's fundamental principle, and in the propriety of organized effort for giving it effect. The following are its terms:—

"That all legislation by secular governments in affairs of religion is an encroachment upon the rights of conscience, and a usurpation of the Divine authority; and that the application of the resources of the State to the maintenance of any form of religious worship or instruction, is unsound in principle, hostile to liberty, and opposed to the word of God."

The expenses of the Delegates are to be defrayed by their constituents, who are also earnestly requested to furnish them with the means of defraying a fair proportion of the expenses of the Conference.

Information of the nomination of Delegates should be forwarded on or before the 13th of April. Persons wishing to promote the appointment of Delegates are invited to place themselves in communication with the Secretary immediately.

By order of the Executive Committee,
J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.
Offices, 4 Crescent, Blackfriars, London.

* In compliance with the wish of the Committee, the public are informed that the Conference is in no way connected with the Literary Institution.

MR. MIAULL'S LECTURES ON THE BRITISH CHURCHES IN RELATION TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE.

THIS EVENING, at Half-past Seven, Mr. JAMES ARTHUR MILES will read the SEVENTH LECTURE, in the BRITISH SCHOOL-ROOMS, NEVILLE'S COURT, FENTER-LANE.—Subject: "External Hindrances to the Churches' Success."

Also, this Evening, at Eight o'clock, the FIFTH LECTURE will be read in BAKER'S-ROOMS, ISLINGTON.—Subject: "The Professional Sentiment."

TO-MORROW EVENING, at Half-past Seven, the SEVENTH LECTURE, at the EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE, STOCKWELL.

ON FRIDAY EVENING, at Half-past Seven, Mr. WILLIAM CRELIN will read the SIXTH LECTURE, in the CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, DALSTON.—Subject: "The Trade Spirit."

JOHN TEMPLETON, Hon. Secretary.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Instituted for the Training of Teachers, and the Establishment of Schools for Popular Education, apart from all State Aid or Interference.

THE COMMITTEE hereby give Notice that they are ready to receive Applications from such Committees of Voluntary Schools, as may be in want of Masters; several of the young men in the Society's Normal Establishment having nearly completed their course of training.

N.B.—Early communications are requested; to be addressed to CHARLES THEODORE JONES, Assistant Secretary, 26, New Broad-street, London.

February 12th, 1850.

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION.

THIS Board is established to promote the advancement of POPULAR EDUCATION upon strictly Religious principles, free from all magisterial authority.

It repudiates Government interference in any form whatever with the education of mind, and entertains a strong conviction that it has no right to appropriate money raised by taxation for any such object.

This Board is occupied in training Male and Female pupils for masters and mistresses of schools; and its Normal Schools are open to receive, at stated times, pupils from any denomination of Evangelical Christians. The only qualifications are, fitness and Christian character, such as to warrant the expectation that they will become first-class Teachers.

The Board diffuses information on the best modes of conducting Education and managing schools, supplies books and school materials, and contemplates the resumption of granting aid to poor schools in destitute districts.

To carry on these various objects it is evident there must be a considerable expenditure of money. The Board therefore solicits of those who are willing to aid subscriptions or donations for such important purposes.

Information respecting the objects of the Board will be given at the office of the Institution in reply either to letters or personal application.

By order of the Board,
SAMUEL MORLEY, Treasurer.
WILLIAM RUTT, Sec. pro tem.
10, Liverpool-street, Finsbury, Feb. 1850.

Published this Day,

SECOND EDITION of the

BRITISH QUARTERLY REVIEW for the

Present Month.

Supplied to Order by all Booksellers.

London: JACKSON and WALFORD, 18, St. Paul's-churchyard; and SIMPKIN, MARSHALL and CO., Stationers' Hall-court.

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION.

THE next session of the Normal Schools of the CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION commences on the 25th of MARCH next, when there will be vacancies for Four Male Pupils.

The term of training is not less than Twelve Months.

Young-men between the ages of eighteen and thirty years, of decided piety, desirous of devoting themselves to the work of Voluntary Education in schools connected with the Board, and wishing to become candidates for admission, may apply by letter addressed to the Secretary.

By order of the Board,
WILLIAM RUTT, Secretary pro tem.
10, Liverpool-street, Finsbury, Feb. 13, 1850.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

AT A MEETING of the BOARD OF BAPTIST MINISTERS residing in and near the cities of London and Westminster, held in the BAPTIST MISSION HOUSE, MOORGATE-STREET, FEBRUARY 12th, 1850, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That in the judgment of this Board, the marriage of a widower with a sister of his deceased wife is scripturally lawful, and ought not to be prohibited by human legislation.

2. That in the judgment of this Board, the Act of 5 and 6 William IV. cap. 54, is improperly restrictive of the rights of individuals, and, in many cases, productive of immorality.

3. That this Board has learned with pleasure that the Committee of the Baptist Union has issued a circular recommending the churches to petition for the passing of an act legalizing the class of marriages thus prohibited, and hopes that they will generally comply with the suggestion.

4. That a petition in conformity with the preceding resolutions be presented to both Houses of Parliament, signed on behalf of the Board by the Chairman and Secretary, and that Mr. Hinton, with the Chairman and Secretary, be requested to prepare it. (Signed) JAMES SMITH, Chairman.

WILLIAM GROSER, Secretary.

NOTICE.—REMOVAL OF OFFICES, from St. Albans to 80, Fleet-street, London.

NATAL CHRISTIAN EMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION SOCIETY, 80, Fleet-street, London.
MANAGER.—W. J. IRONS.

Arrangements having been entered into with Messrs. J. C. BYRNE and Co., for the Colonization of 18,000 Acres of Land in the Colony of Natal, persons are invited to avail themselves of the advantageous terms now offered, by which they may emigrate in Christian Communities to this beautiful, salubrious, healthy, and fertile country. Each adult, if approved by her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners, will be provided with a Steerage Passage and provisions, with Twenty Acres of Freehold Land, for £10, or an Intermediate Passage and Fifty Acres of Land for £22 10s. An Agent will receive the Emigrants at D'Urban, who will provide temporary accommodation in the Government Buildings or Companies' Tents, and engage Waggons to convey the settlers and their personal baggage to the Settlement of Vryheid. First Class Vessels fitted up with every necessary convenience, and carrying experienced Surgeons, will be despatched Monthly by Messrs. J. C. BYRNE and Co., whose well-known liberal arrangements will not fail to secure the comfort of all who may go out in their ships. A Clergyman or Dissenting Minister will be appointed Chaplain to each vessel. To follow the "Lady Bruce" the "Diamond," which will sail about the 10th of March.

For Prospects and Printed Forms of Application, apply personally; or enclose Two Stamps to the Manager; who will afford any further information.

KENT MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

Empowered by Act of Parliament.

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This Office was the first established (and for some years the only) Mutual Fire-office for Great Britain, and has received the stamp of public approbation.

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1. COMMON INSURANCES.—Premium 1s. 6d. to 2s. per cent.

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Other risks at special rates.

No charge for Policies. Prompt and equitable settlement of claims.

THOMAS BURR, Secretary.

Just published, price 1s.

A LETTER to the CHURCH meeting in the WEST GEORGE-STREET (Dr. Wardlaw's), GLASGOW. With an Appendix, containing all the Facts and Documents. By their late Pastor, S. T. POINDEXTER.

London: BENJAMIN L. GREEN, 12, Paternoster-row.

EAST OF SCOTLAND MALLEABLE IRON COMPANY.

NOTICE is hereby given, that a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS of the East of Scotland Malleable Iron Company, will be held within the Town-house of DUNFERMLINE, upon THURSDAY, the 22nd day of AUGUST next, 1850, at Twelve o'clock Noon, for the purpose of considering a proposal to dissolve the said Company, and to sell and realize the whole Property and Estate, and funds and effects of the Company, and finally to wind-up the Company's affairs, all in terms of the 37th Clause of the Contract of Co-partnership of the said Company.

By order of the Directors,

JAMES INGLIS, Chairman.

JOHN DRYSDALE, Interim Sec.

THE GRESHAM STEAM PRESS, AND MERCANTILE STATIONERY WAREHOUSE, 31, BUCKLERSBURY, LONDON.

JACOB UNWIN presents his grateful acknowledgments to his friends and the public for the liberal encouragement which has been accorded to his diligence and assiduity during the last twenty-three years, and trusts that his increased facilities for the despatch of business will meet with a continuance of their patronage.

With a view of rendering his Office most complete, he has adopted STEAM POWER, with the addition of the only Licence from the PATENT DISSECTING COMPANY (Davidson and Symington, Patentees) in London, by which the work is thoroughly dried, and the ink firmly set, as fast as printed, and fit for Pressing or Binding.

Public Companies, Merchants, and Traders, supplied with every article of STATIONERY and ACCOUNT BOOKS.

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31, BUCKLERSBURY, LONDON, Jan. 1850.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

TO SECURE THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS YEAR'S ENTRY, PROPOSALS MUST BE LODGED AT THE HEAD OFFICE, OR AT ANY OF THE SOCIETY'S AGENCIES, ON OR BEFORE 1st MARCH.

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE (MUTUAL) LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Incorporated by Special Act of Parliament.

LONDON, 61a, Moorgate-street.

SOLICITOR. PHYSICIAN.
Charles Lever, Esq., 1, Fr. Joseph Laurie, Esq., M.D., 12, Lower Berkeley-street, Portman-square.

HEAD OFFICE, 26, ST. ANDREW-SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

The SCOTTISH EQUITABLE being a MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY, their Profits are not, as in Proprietary Companies, divided between the Partners of the Companies and the Assured. The WHOLE belong to the Policy-holders, among whom they are ALLOCATED every THREE YEARS. It is, therefore, impossible for any Assurance Office to give greater advantages to Assureds than are given by this Society.

The PROFITS or BONUSES may, in the option of the Assured, be applied thus:—

1st. They may be added to the sum assured, payable at death; or,

2nd. They may be commuted into a present payment to the Policy-holders; or,

3rd. They may be applied in reduction of the future annual premiums.

The following is a View of the progress of the Society down to 1st March, 1849.

	Amount Assured.	Annual Revenue.	Accumulated Fund.
At 1st March, 1837	£740,462	£26,993	£56,115
Do. 1841	1,569,570	55,536	153,329
Do. 1845	2,134,381	76,111	295,197
Do. 1849	3,067,378	114,106	496,555

Table of Rates and Form of Proposal may be had on application at the Society's Office, 61a, Moorgate-street, City.

WILLIAM COOK, Agent.

FORD'S PECTORAL BALSAM OF HOREHOUND.

For the Relief and Cure of Coughs, Influenza, Asthma, and all Diseases of the Chest and Lungs.

HOEHOUND is a herb which has ever been esteemed by the most able physicians for its salubrious qualities in the cure of Coughs, Colds, Asthma, and all Pulmonary

PARALYSIS.

MR. HALSE, the MEDICAL GALVANIST, of 22, Brunswick-square, London, earnestly recommends invalids and gentlemen of the medical profession to peruse the following. It cannot but surprise them, and prove to them the all but miraculous powers of Galvanism, when applied in a scientific manner, and with an efficient apparatus.

The following case is, perhaps, as remarkable a one as could be selected, as showing the powers of Galvanism, after every medicine, and almost every medical practitioner in Devonshire, had been tried in vain; and as the truth of it is witnessed by a distinguished clergyman of the Established Church, there can, one would suppose, be no doubt in any one's mind as to its accuracy. When the patient was brought to Mr. H., his wife told him that she could not believe that Galvanism or anything else could possibly restore him; for his complaint had been standing so long, and he was in such a weak state, that it would be presumptuous to expect any benefit, particularly as he had tried the most celebrated physicians in Devonshire, and still daily continued to get worse. She also stated that her friends blamed her very much for removing him from his home; but she could not help it! Her husband had heard of such extraordinary cures made by Mr. H. in his complaint, that galvanized he would be, in spite of everything. His medical man was quite angry with him for thinking of such a thing; and when his friends were carrying him from his house to the carriage, everyone appeared to be convinced that they should never see him alive any more. But, notwithstanding all the difficulties he had to contend with, he was determined, and insisted upon being galvanized. The following letter, which he sent to the Editor of the *Exeter Flying Post*, will prove the result:—

OUGHT NOT GALVANISM TO BE MORE GENERALLY RESORTED TO?

A Letter to the Editor of the *Flying Post*, by one who has derived immense benefit from the power of the Galvanic Apparatus.

"Mr. EDITOR.—A few weeks since, I noticed a paragraph by you, stating that Galvanism ought to be more generally employed. I beg to state, that I am precisely of the same opinion, for I have witnessed its astonishing effects in a number of cases, and its power has been tried practically upon myself, with the happiest results. In that paragraph, I was most happy to find favourable mention of Mr. Halse's name. All that you have said of him, and even more, is his due; indeed, as for myself, I have cause to bless the day that I first placed myself under his care. Now, Sir, my case was a most deplorable one, for I had not the least use of either arm or leg—they hung about me like as if they did not belong to me, and the strength of my legs was insufficient to support the weight of my body. Of course I could not stand; and if you had offered me a thousand guineas to move either hand but one inch from the place where it might have been placed, I could not have done it; not the least command had I over my limbs. My complaint was caused by a blow in the back. Well, as before stated, I placed myself under Mr. Halse's galvanic treatment. I had been led to believe, that it was a dreadful operation to go through; but I was agreeably surprised that there was no unpleasantness at all about it, not even enough to make a child cry, so beautifully does Mr. Halse manage his battery. In three days, Sir, I could stand upon my legs, and, in one week, I could walk about the house: at the same time, I also partially recovered the use of my arms, and, in six weeks, I could walk several miles in a day, without the least assistance. Well might you ask, 'Ought not Galvanism to be much resorted to?' After what I have seen and experienced, I do consider it a shame that a portion of the medical profession should decline to recommend their patients to try the powers of galvanism. Perhaps I need not state, that I had the advice of the most celebrated physicians in this country; but all the medicines which were tried did me little or no good. I believe Mr. Halse was as much surprised as myself and friend when, at the expiration of a week, he saw that I could walk, for he did not lead me to believe that there would be such a rapid improvement. I will state that invalids are very much to blame if they do not give Galvanism a trial; for if it does no good it is impossible it can do any harm. But there is every probability of its doing good; for during the time I was under Mr. Halse's care, I noticed its happy effects in a variety of cases, particularly sciatica, rheumatism, asthma, and nervousness; indeed, all his patients were rapidly regaining their health. I only regret that I had not applied to him earlier; I should have been many scores of pounds in pocket had I done so."

"New London Inn, Dodbrooke, Kingsbridge.

"Witness to the truth of the above—C. G. Owen, Rector of Dodbrooke, near Kingsbridge, Devon."

Mr. Halse recommends paralytic patients residing in the country to purchase one of his Ten Guineas Portable Apparatus; with his instructions, they will be enabled to apply the Galvanic themselves, without the least pain, and fully as effective as he could at his own residence.

Invalids are solicited to send to Mr. W. H. HALSE, of 22, Brunswick-square, London, for his Pamphlet on MEDICAL GALVANISM, which will be forwarded free on receipt of two postage-stamps. They will be astonished at its contents. In it will be found the particulars of cures in cases of asthma, rheumatism, sciatica, tic-douloureux, paralysis, spinal complaints, headache, deficiency of nervous energy, liver complaints, general debility, indigestion, stiff joints, all sorts of nervous disorders, &c. Mr. Halse's method of applying the galvanic fluid is quite free from all unpleasant sensations; in fact, it is rather pleasurable than otherwise, and many ladies are exceedingly fond of it. It quickly causes the patient to do without medicine. Terms, One Guinea per week. The above Pamphlet contains his Letters on Medical Galvanism.

A GREAT BLESSING.

RUPTURES EFFECTUALLY AND PERMANENTLY CURED WITHOUT A TRUSS!!

DR. DE ROOS' amazing success in the treatment of every variety of RUPTURE is ample proof of the unfeeling efficacy of this remedy. Thousands in all parts of the world are availing themselves of his discovery, which must ere long entirely banish a complaint hitherto so prevalent. All persons so afflicted should, without delay, write, or pay a visit to Dr. De R., who may be consulted daily from 10 till 1, and 4 till 8, Sunday excepted.

This remedy may be used without confinement, is perfectly free from danger, pain, or inconvenience, applicable to male and female, of any age, and will be sent (free) with full instructions, &c. &c., rendering failure impossible, on receipt of £. 6d. in cash, or by Post-office order, payable at the Holborn-office.

A great number of trusses have been left behind by persons cured, as trophies of the immense success of this remedy, which will be readily given to any one requiring them after a trial of it.

Letters of inquiry should contain two postage stamps. In every case a cure is guaranteed.

All those afflicted with Fistula, Piles, Prolapse, &c., will do well to avail themselves of Doctor De R. 's experience in these matters.

Address, Dr. Walter de R., 1, Ely-place, Holborn-hill, London.

COALS.

R. S. DIXON, PROVIDENCE WHARF, BELVIDERE-ROAD, LAMBETH, begs to inform his friends and the public that he can supply them better than any other house in the trade, west of London-bridge. He has ships of his own, constructed to lower their masts, and come above bridge, and deliver alongside his wharf, by which he is enabled to supply Coals of much better size than when they have been broken by being turned over into barges. He also saves the great loss of small occasioned by it, ships' delivery, and lighterage.

Best Sunderland Coals, well screened..... for cash 25 0

Best Newcastle do..... do..... 24 0

Best Seconds do..... do..... 23 0

N.B.—Those Families who favour him with their orders may depend upon being supplied with the BEST COALS in the market.

WATTS AND ITS SUPPLEMENTS IN ONE.

THE HYMN BOOK contains upwards of EIGHT HUNDRED Psalms and Hymns by Dr. Watts and other Authors, with some Originals, and is specially prepared to meet the growing demand for ONE BOOK, as a matter of convenience, economy, and harmony, rather than several, and embraces the large majority of Psalms and Hymns ever used in our places of worship.

18mo EDITION.—ROAN, 3s. 6d.

THE CHURCH—ITS REVIVAL.

613 C.M. Salem. Devizes.

The church restored. Psal. cii. WATTS.

LET Zion and her sons rejoice,

Behold the promised hour;

Her God hath heard her mourning voice,

And comes to exalt his power.

32mo EDITION.—ROAN, 2s.

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

643 L.M. Penitence. Doversdale.

The power and glory of God. KEEBLE.

O GOD of mercy, God of might,

How should weak sinners bear the sight,

If, as thy power is surely here,

Thine open glory should appear?

48mo EDITION.—ROAN, 1s. 4d.

MAN—HIS LOVE.

315 T's. Hotham. *Brotherly Love.* WESLEY.

JESUS, Lord, we look to thee:

Let us in thy name agree:

Show thyself the Prince of Peace;

Bid all strife for ever cease.

By thy reconciling love

Every stumbling block remove;

Each to each unite, endear;

Come and spread thy banner here.

"The selection of hymns is remarkably judicious; and the indexes are more perfect than anything of the kind that has yet fallen into our hands."—*Evangelical Magazine.*

"Dr. Reed's idea is a good one. The adoption of one book for the entire community is an object much to be recommended."—*Christian Witness.*

"We knew of no collection of Psalms and Hymns, which, in our judgment, is so admirably adapted for general use among Christian churches."—*Christian Examiner.*

"One peculiar excellency of this work is the remarkable simplicity of its arrangement, combining with the novel and superior character of its indexes, to make it the most accessible book of reference we have seen. We know of no Hymn Book in which we could so readily find a hymn to suit any particular state of mind or train of thought as in this."—*Independent Magazine.*

"With this book we are in perfect delight."—*Sunday School Magazine.*

"Allowing a new Hymn Book to have been required, Dr. Reed has done well. He has met the need with great propriety, skill, and taste. He has secured great variety, and his system of indexes is admirable."—*Nonconformist.*

"During the four months that I have been absent from home in various parts of the country, and communing with different sections of the Christian Church, the HYMN BOOK has supplied me with every hymn used in public worship in which I have united, with but two exceptions."—*Extract from a private letter.*

"Dr. Reed's book bids fair to be pretty generally adopted here. It is sure to be popular wherever it is known."—*Extract from a Letter from a Missionary at Berbice.*

"I am rejoiced to find that Dr. Reed's excellent compilation (so popular because it supersedes the use of two books in nearly every congregation) is likely to be the chosen one for the churches in British Guiana."—*From a Correspondent at Demerara.*

"A liberal allowance to Congregations and Schools ordering in quantities. A large assortment in various bindings constantly on hand for the supply of home and foreign orders.

The whole of these editions are stereotyped, so that their continuance may be depended on, and that without any material alteration in subsequent editions.

Ministers may obtain Specimen Pages at the Publishers', upon application, free of expense.

WARD and CO., 27, Paternoster-row.

Congregations desiring it, may have a Special Title-page, with the name of their own Chapel inserted.

GALVANIC ELECTRICITY.

No. II.

MR. HALSE, the Medical Galvanist, of 22, Brunswick-square, London, respectfully invites Invalids and the public generally, to peruse the following

[Continued from last week.]

EXTRACTS FROM MR. WESLEY'S WORKS ON THE SUBJECT OF ELECTRICITY.

"Desiderium," p. 66.—"It seems the electric fire in cases of this and many other kinds, dilates the minute vessels and capillary passages, as well as separates the clogging particles of the stagnating fluids. By accelerating, likewise, the motion of the blood, it removes many obstructions."

"Mr. L.:"—"I can't deny but I was much astonished at seeing such mighty things performed by electricity. But, after having considered the nature of electric ether I was led to conclude that all those surprising effects were no more than the necessary consequences of so powerful an agent, when thus determined and directed. And the helping us in our bodily infirmities was one great end (probably the great end) it was ordained to serve."

"It were greatly to be wished that the gentlemen of the faculty would strictly examine the nature, properties, and effects of this sovereign remedy."

"It is highly probable a timely use of this means might prevent, before they were thoroughly formed, and frequently even then removes some of the most painful and dangerous distempers, cancers and scrofulous tumors in particular, though they will yield to no other medicine yet discovered. It is certain, nothing is so likely, by accelerating the contained fluids, to dilate and open the passages, as well as divide the coagulated particles of the blood, so that the circulation may be again performed. And it is a doubt, whether it would not be of more use, even in mortification, than either the bark or any other medicine. Before I conclude, I would beg one thing (if it be not too great a favour) from the gentlemen of the faculty. . . . It is, that none of them would condemn, they know not what; that they would hear the cause before they pass sentence that they would not pronounce against electricity while they know little or nothing about it. Let every candid man take a little pains. Let him, for two or three weeks, try it himself in the above-named disorders; and then his own sense will show him whether it be a mere plaything, or the noblest medicine yet known in the world."

WESLEY'S NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, Vol. III., Page 174.—"From a thousand experiments it appears that there is a fluid far more subtle than air, which is everywhere diffused through all space, which surrounds the earth, and pervades every part of it."

" This is subtle and active enough, not only to be, under the Great Cause, the secondary cause of motion, but to produce and sustain life throughout all nature, as well as in animals as in vegetables."

Page 192.—"And may it not be doubted whether this be not the only elastic body in the universe? whether it be not the original spring which communicates elasticity to all other elastic bodies?"

Page 194.—"Electricity quickens almost all sorts of motion. It accelerates the motion of the human blood. The blood that flows from the vein of one electrified, glistens, separates into small drops, and spouts out further than otherwise it would do."

"It exceedingly hastens the vegetation of plants. Myrtles which were electrified, budded much sooner than others of the same kind and bigness in the same green-house; and seeds, electrified daily, have shot up and grown more in three or four days, than others of the same kind, and alike in all other circumstances, have done in seven or twelve days."

"It cures abundance of diseases, even the most stubborn, particularly those of the nervous kind, many of them in a moment by a single touch,—most in a few days; so that this is not only one of the greatest curiosities in the world, but one of the noblest medicines that God ever gave to man."

Page 195.—"Electricity will probably soon be considered as the great vivifying principle of nature, by which she carries on most of her operations. It is a fifth element, distinct from, and of a superior nature to the other four, which only compose the corporeal parts of matter; but this subtle and active fluid is a kind of soil that pervades and quickens every particle of it. When an equal quantity of this is diffused through the air, and over the face of the earth, everything continues calm and quiet,—but if, by any accident, one part of matter has acquired a greater quantity than another, the most dreadful consequences often ensue before the equilibrium can be restored. Nature seems to fall into convulsions, and many of her works are destroyed. All the great phenomena are produced,—thunder, lightning, earthquake, and whirlwinds,—for there is now little doubt that all these frequently depend on the sole cause. And again, if we look down from the sublime of Nature to its minutiæ, we shall still find the same power acting, though, perhaps, in less legible characters,—for as the knowledge of its operations is still in its infancy, they are generally misunderstood, or ascribed to some other cause. But, doubtless, in process of time, these will be properly investigated, when men will wonder how much they have been in the dark. It will then possibly be found, that what we call sensibility of nerves, and many of those diseases known only by name, are owing to the body's being possessed of too large or too small a quantity of this subtle and active fluid,—that very fluid, perhaps, that is the vehicle of all our feelings, and which has been so long searched for in vain in the nerves."

"We all know that in damp and hazy weather, where it seems to be blunted and absorbed by the humidity, where its activity is lost, and little or none of it can be collected, our spirits are more languid and our sensibility less acute. And in the South wind, at Naples, where the air seems totally deprived of it, the whole system is unstrung, and the nerves seem to lose both their tension and elasticity, till the North or West wind awakens the activity of this animating power, that soon restores the tone and enlivens all nature, which seemed to droop and languish during its absence."

Page 197.—"It is not at all improbable that many of our invalids, particularly the hypochondriac, owe their disagreeable feelings to their bodies being possessed of too small a quantity of this fire, for we find that a diminution of it in the air seldom fails to increase their uneasy sensations."

Persons who are desirous of being acquainted more fully with Mr. Wesley's remarks on Electricity as the great vivifying principle of nature, are respectfully solicited to procure his works on the subject.

Invalids may be supplied with Mr. Halse's Pamphlet on "Medical Galvanism" free, by forwarding him two stamps for the postage of it. His residence is at 22, Brunswick-square, London.

DO YOU SUFFER WITH COUGH, Bronchitis, Influenza, or Asthma? If so, send for a Packet of BRANDE'S BRONCHIAL SEDATIVE. Sold by Chemists everywhere at 1s. 1d. per packet, post free 1s. 3d., and 2s. 9d. per box, post free 3s.

Since the introduction of this medicine, it has been rapidly supplanting all other preparations administered for pulmonary disorders.

Exorciating Cough, Shortness of Breath, and Hoarseness, cured by Brande's Sedative, after all the medical men in the neighbourhood had failed:—

"Portfield, near Haverfordwest, Feb. 12th, 1849.

"GENTLEMEN.—Having been a great sufferer for upwards of three years, with an oppression of the chest, and an excruciating cough and pain in my stomach, which at times nearly deprived me of my breath, I was induced (after having tried all the doctors in this neighbourhood) to send to your agent at Haverfordwest for a packet of Brande's Bronchial Sedative, and, to my great astonishment, I found relief in less than two days; I was enabled to breathe with perfect ease, and my voice, which was before hoarse and husky, became quite clear. I then sent for another packet, and

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL X.—NEW SERIES, No. 223.]

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tyranny, uncouth and shocking as they appear to the rest of the world, are dear memorials to her of the power which she once possessed to make the world stand awe-stricken before her frown.

This *penchant* of Mother Church for "tokens of remembrance" is being perpetually illustrated. Take Church-rates as an instance. The value of this odious impost to the Establishment, as such, is about in an inverse ratio to her anxiety to retain it. The annual income which it yields her is, probably, far less than that which would be willingly furnished by the zeal of her supporters. It annoys her best friends. It irritates, without subduing, her staunchest foes. It subjects her character to the most damaging imputations. It exhibits her in light as repulsive as the spirit of the age will admit of. It breeds perpetual discord. It is the source of violent antipathies. It makes the peaceful, bellicose. It suggests disloyal thoughts to the most enlightened of her own partisans. Regarded merely as a civil institution, she would do wisely to get rid of it; whilst, as a professed religious agent, commissioned by God to instruct souls in things relating to his spiritual kingdom, this impost casts suspicion upon her entire character. Various, however, as have been the efforts to abolish Church-rates, the Church herself persists in retaining them. They remind her of the past. They have pleasing associations to her mind of the hey-day of persecution. She might do better for herself by gracefully consenting to give them up. But she will not forego the pleasures of memory. She lives upon her recollections; and hence, in place of parting with Church-rates as an instrument of petty persecution, she has prevailed upon the judges to put a new handle to the old blade, that she may live over again the times of her insolence.

Take as another specimen, Ecclesiastical Courts. The constitution of these Courts, their forms of proceeding, their powers of annoyance, their interference with matters of civil concern, their bad character, their terrible expense, have pointed them out for condemnation to all men who pretend to reputation for statesmanship. And numerous have been the proposals submitted to Parliament, sometimes by Government, sometimes by independent members, for modifying or abolishing them. But all in vain. Mother Church will not suffer them to be touched. They pleasantly call up to her the dark ages in which they were originally constituted. If grotesque and barbarous, they still delight her with the picture of her by-gone importance. When she looks at them, she remembers the pleasant things of her youth—the influences, powers, penalties, excommunications, which she could wield or inflict at will. Their existence may be a reproach to the intelligence of the age—a stain upon the character of the Church herself—a stigma which her truest friends would be glad to efface, and consign to the darkness of oblivion. But, no, it must not be! These Courts constitute a link between the past and the present, and Mother Church, true to the spirit of her former days, cherishes, with anxious care, every memento of her faded power.

The present session of Parliament has already supplied, and is probably destined to add, similar instances of this weakness of Mother Church. At her bidding the House of Commons has already refused to remove from the statute-book those remaining penal laws affecting Roman Catholics, which insult, without in any degree controlling, that numerous body of her Majesty's subjects. On Thursday night, the same House, moved thereto by Sir G. Grey, gave the go-by to Mr. Fagan's modest effort to abolish what is called "ministers' money" in Ireland. This ministers' money is a kind of Annuity-tax, by which certain clergy in certain towns of Ireland are sustained in discharging the duties of their spiritual office. It originated in the time of Charles II. It is exacted chiefly from Roman Catholic occupiers. It amounts to about £30,000 a year. Like the Annuity-tax in Scotland, and church-rates in England, it is a prolific parent of discord and religious strife. In principle no one can be found to defend it. In

practice all admit it to be pernicious. But it must not be given up. It is a nice little memorial of the days of Charley—a "token of remembrance," which calls up vividly all the pleasant associations which wed the memory of ecclesiastics to that most religious monarch's reign. Hence, under the advice of Sir George Grey, the House, fairly ashamed to renew its sanction to this vexatious impost, gave the subject the slip by voting the "previous question." Mother Church, therefore, has secured for another year this precious relic of injustice, and, looking on it, she may still pride herself in the reflection that the days are not wholly gone by in which might has precedence of right.

To-morrow, the Church will have another opportunity of evincing her affection for the memorials of the past. Mr. Trelawny has a notice on the books of the House on the subject of church-rates. Can we doubt as to the mode in which it will be disposed of? Is the Church likely to part with what so forcibly reminds her of her youthful vigour? After having secured a decision which will greatly add to her powers of annoyance, is it to be expected that she will consent to forget what she was when unenervated by the infirmities of age? To the only reply which common sense will return to these inquiries, we beg to add the consoling observation, that a tenacious attachment to "tokens of remembrance" is an invariable sign of advancing senility. The Church is growing old, and not until she has departed to that rest which awaits her will she give up, unless to a force which she can no longer resist, that odd collection of uncouth and mischievous trifles which she has been accustomed to associate with her palmy days.

THE ANTI-STATE-CHURCH MOVEMENT.

MEETING AT HANLEY.

There was a crowded meeting in the Town Hall, Hanley, on Tuesday evening, February 12th, to hear the addresses of a deputation from the Anti-state-church Association. The deputation consisted of J. Kingsley, Esq., and the Rev. Joseph Fletcher, of Christchurch, Hampshire, late minister of the Tabernacle, Hanley.

The Rev. R. MACARTHUR, minister of Hope Chapel, Shelton, having been requested to take the chair, opened the evening's proceedings by a few remarks on the principles by which the association was influenced—principles which he said were stirring the hearts of thinking men—principles vital and active, and which would ere long be fully unfolded for good or evil.

Mr. KINGSLEY observed, that judging from increasingly numerous attendance, and the enthusiastic aspect of the meeting, the subject had suffered no abatement since he last addressed them. Mr. K. directed the attention of the meeting to the bondage in which the Establishment was held. He also referred to the proposal for the subdivision of parishes, which originated in that neighbourhood, and concluded an address of more than an hour's length by recommending opposition to it, and also by urging that support should be given to Mr. Roebuck's motion in reference to the property of the Irish Church.

The Rev. JOSEPH FLETCHER was next introduced, and received with very cordial greetings. When the applause had subsided, the rev. gentleman said, on looking at that large assemblage he could not but remember the time when the advocates of the separation of Church and State in that neighbourhood met in much smaller numbers. Since that time the increased necessity of those who held enlightened views banding together had been amply demonstrated at their own doors, and now there was a more general response to the enunciation of the principle that religion was a thing between man and God, with which Parliaments and statesmen had nothing to do [applause]. After some further introductory remarks, he said Mr. Kingsley had referred to a measure which was being pressed on the attention of Parliament, and which originated in some degree in this neighbourhood. Now in this neighbourhood they had many examples of the voluntaryism of the Church. Whilst resident in the neighbourhood he had not been unobservant of the class of persons who subscribed to

Our Mother Church, as she has been pleased to call herself, or, in other words, the civil establishment of religion in these realms, though old, and somewhat shaky, has not yet gone the way which all things founded on a mistake are ultimately destined to go. She still lives, and it is curious to see how, in her old age, she clings to whatever can remind her of her pristine power. Many things belonging to her have become, in the judgment of common-sense, obsolete, useless, mischievous—but she preserves them with a show of fond attachment. They have associations connected with them which call up to her recollection the days of her queenly dignity. She will not part with one of them, no, not one—useless, as it may be, in respect of present service—out of keeping, as she may confess it to be, with the tastes and temper of the age. Thus she retains a rubric which her clergy cannot observe, and canons which she cannot enforce. She cherishes a convocation which cannot meet, and refuses to modify her liturgical contradictions, which she cannot reconcile. To her the musty smell of antiquity is delicious, and if, perchance, it is mingled with the odour of persecution, her satisfaction is complete. Absurdities are still of high value in her estimation, which recall to her the recollection of what she once was. And the instruments of her former

the erection of new churches; and he had seen how reluctantly some rich men contributed. Yet they did give; and they gave because they thought they had a direct interest in upholding and extending Church influences. With them the support of the Church assumed the same form as "protection" with the landlords: it was in some sort a question of rent [laughter]. They thought the clergy a useful body of men—a kind of spiritual police [applause and laughter]. Those were not his words; they had been printed over and over again. That was, he believed, the view generally taken throughout the country by persons of substance in connexion with the Church of England. Well, here were the new churches, built, it was said, on the voluntary principle. But would they continue to be maintained by the voluntary principle? Certainly not, if the measure which was now being brought before Parliament was allowed to become law [hear, hear]. If a very vigilant watch was not kept over every clause of that measure, and a very vigorous opposition organized to what was objectionable, they would even have this large parish of Stoke divided into several parishes, and down would come the demand for church-rates in every section; and then, with the decision of Lord Denman in the Brintree case, confirmed by four of the worst lawyers on the bench in opposition to three of the best, they would have minorities laying church-rates all over the country [hear, hear]. It was time the public were aroused to the danger. Many even of the Anti-state-church party looked upon this proposed division of parishes as something with which they had nothing to do. So specious was the plan, that it was generally viewed as one relating solely to the internal management of the Church. Nothing was being done to oppose it, while wise heads were at work in its support. Lord Ashley was taking it up as a matter of benevolence and regard to the spiritual interests of the people, and Parliament would pass it under the same feeling, unless deterred by the opposition which must manifest itself on the real tendency of the measure being made manifest [hear, hear]. It could not be too well understood, therefore, that this measure proposed to make distinct parishes of the districts recently formed in populous places, augmenting the influence of clergymen, arming district churchwardens with full power and authority, and doubling, trebling, and quadrupling the means of exacting rates. That would unquestionably be the result. Now he thought opposition to the measure should go forth from the neighbourhood where it originated, and that petitions against it should be immediately signed. The opposition should be earnest, active, vigilant, and immediate; or it might be that while they were talking and deliberating, the measure would be slipped through Parliament [hear, hear]. The rest of the rev. gentleman's speech was devoted to an exposition of the principles of the Association.

In bringing the proceedings of the meeting to a close, the CHAIRMAN, referring to the proposed measure for the division of parishes, said he had read with great interest the report in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* of the meeting in support of it recently held at Stoke; and he must add, that he felt great respect for many who were present on the occasion. He respected them personally, and he also respected their logic, which was sound and convincing. But they did not carry it far enough. How was it that they could discern so clearly the hardship of compelling the residents in the new districts to assist in supporting the old mother church of the parish, from which it was said they derived no benefit; and yet did not see the greater hardship of exacting rates from those who were still further removed from that mother church by dissent from her worship, her doctrine, and discipline? [hear, hear.]—Abridged from the *Staffordshire Advertiser*.

LEEK, STAFFORDSHIRE.—On Friday, February 15th, Mr. Kingsley delivered a lecture, in the large Assembly-room at the Swan inn in this town. The meeting had been announced by placard, and was numerously attended, the room being crowded to excess. On the motion of Mr. Alsop, seconded by Mr. Brough, Mr. Joshua Nicholson was called to the chair. After opening the meeting with a few pertinent remarks, he called upon Mr. Kingsley, whose powerful address occupied nearly two hours. The telling remarks and convincing arguments of the talented lecturer, relative to the unscriptural character of the State Church, called forth repeated and prolonged applause. On his resuming his seat, a resolution, proposed by the Rev. R. Goshawk, and seconded by Mr. Alsop, approving of the Association, and pledging the meeting to its support, was carried unanimously. A committee is about being formed to carry the resolution into effect.

STOCKWELL.—On Monday evening, a large and respectable meeting, convened by the South London Committee of the Association, was held at the Literary Institution, Stockwell-green, which was inconveniently crowded. About 400 persons being present, W. Carlile, Esq., occupied the chair, and in a few introductory remarks, briefly stated the object of the Anti-state-church Association, and his own conviction of its importance. The first resolution, expressive of the sentiment that the union of the Church with the State is a violation of the rights of conscience, incompatible with the enjoyment of religious equality, injurious to the character of religious teachers, and detrimental to the interests and extension of Christian truth, was moved by Mr. Charles Theodore Jones, and seconded by Rev. J. Turnbull, by whom its several positions were illustrated and enforced. This resolution was unanimously adopted, as was also the second, which affirmed that the State Church system presented an

insuperable obstacle to the adoption by the Legislature of just and comprehensive measures of general policy, was an enormous burden on the resources of the empire, and a fruitful source of political and social dissension. The Rev. W. Leask, the Rev. D. Thomas, and Mr. J. Carvell Williams, Secretary to the society, supported this resolution. Mr. Williams, by a most clear, forcible, and convincing argument, showed that Church property was essentially national property; that its resumption by the State for secular purposes, would be both just and expedient; that so far from retarding, it would greatly promote the extension of religious truth; and that, by a compensation being made, no wrong would be inflicted on individuals, whilst immense advantage would accrue to the country at large. Throughout the entire proceedings of the evening, the greatest interest was evinced by those present. A vote of thanks to the Chairman having been proposed and carried by acclamation, the meeting dispersed.

THE WESLEYAN AGITATION.

SUSPENSION OF THE REV. JAMES BROMLEY.—Conference tyranny is rampant. The expulsion of the three ministers has been this week followed by the suspension of the Rev. James Bromley, Wesleyan Minister of this city, for the part he has taken in the question relating to the expelled. We noticed last week that Mr. Bromley, resting his demand upon one of the "Articles of Pacification," had demanded a mixed court before which to be judged concerning the charges made against him by his accusers. This, however, was refused; and a special district committee, consisting exclusively of ministers, sat at the vestry of New King-street Chapel, on Wednesday and Thursday, to try him. An appeal against the court was sent in from Mr. Bromley, and in consequence a deputation of four preachers waited upon him to request him to withdraw his demand and meet the committee. The rev. gentleman, on the ground that the rights of millions were involved in the privilege he had claimed, declined to accede to their request, and at seven o'clock on Thursday he received the sentence of suspension.—*Bath Journal*.

DOWNHAM.—THE WESLEYAN REFORM MOVEMENT appears to have taken fast hold of the popular feeling in this locality, and during the past week, has received an impetus by the very means adopted for its suppression. Mr. Flatman, a local preacher of long standing and reputation, who has distinguished himself by his advocacy of connexional reforms, has been brought before a local tribunal to answer for his conduct; and Mr. Woolner, the oldest local preacher in the circuit, and Mr. Vince, have also received notice of trial. Mr. Flatman objected to the constitution of the meeting, and the superintendent was urged by the majority of those present to admit the validity of his plea; but he refused to make any concession, and the meeting broke up without coming to a decision.—*Norfolk News*.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

THE Nonconformist movement against Lord Lyndhurst's Act is going on apace in all parts of the country. We have learned with satisfaction that the adoption of petitions praying for the repeal of this statute has been unanimous in every place which has been visited by Mr. Sleigh, the barrister, to whose movements in this cause we have already more than once adverted. We believe this gentleman alone has visited about twenty-five cities and towns in the South and West of England, within the last few weeks, at each of which he has addressed numerous and respectable assemblies of Nonconformists on the subject of the law of marriage. This is, without doubt, a very happy, as well as very proper, mode of bringing the subject fairly before the public. An opportunity is, by this means, afforded for discussion; although we learn that even in Sir R. Henry Inglis's own University City no one could be found to respond to an invitation, given in a very crowded meeting at Rev. Mr. Tyndall's Chapel, to discuss the merits of the question! We understand that Mr. Sleigh is about visiting several towns in the North on the above question, and we trust that he will meet with the same amount of practical support from the Nonconformists of that district which he has met with in other parts of the kingdom.

ZEAL FOR THE LAW-CHURCH.—In the village of Birstall, about three miles from Leicester, it is customary on Valentine-day, for some of the wealthier inhabitants to give the children of the poor buns of pence. This year, one good lady, anxious to show her zeal for the Law-Church, sent for an individual to select those out who attended the Church-school; this done, they each received a penny, while those who frequented the Dissenting schools were sent empty away.

PRIESTLY INTOLERANCE.—NEWTON ABBOT.—A "Lover of Religious Freedom" writes as follows:—I take the liberty of asking you to make public, through the medium of your valuable journal, an act of priestly intolerance, exercised by the chaplain of our Union workhouse towards the schoolmistress, who is, from principle, a Protestant Dissenter, and as such avowed herself when appointed to the situation. On Sunday, the 10th inst., on her way to the Independent Chapel, after attending the morning service at the Union, she was met by the rev. chaplain, and, in reply to his authoritative question, told him where she was going. He then asked, if she did not attend the place of worship at the Union, as

she was bound to do? She replied in the affirmative, but added, that she did not to the exclusion of any other. To which he said, "She had better resign her situation, as he should at once write to the Poor-law Commissioners." She of course did not submit to this usurped authority; but has since formally complained of it to the Board of Guardians, who came to a unanimous conclusion, that as a great principle was involved, the chaplain be required to give an explanation of his conduct.

BENEFICES IN PLURALITY.—By a bill now in the House of Commons, it is proposed that spiritual persons shall not hold benefices in plurality, unless they are actually contiguous to each other, and the population of the two shall not exceed 600. The Act is not to affect benefices under £100, and not to apply to preferments to which persons are admitted. The Act is to apply to Ireland as well as to England.

THE RECTORY OF ST. ANDREW, HOLBORN, is about to undergo a change of incumbents, the Rev. J. T. Robinson, who has been non-resident for the last four years, having effected an exchange with the Rev. J. J. Toogood, vicar of North Petherton, near Bridgewater, and rural dean in the diocese of Wells. The living of St. Andrew, which is in the gift of the Duke of Buccleugh, is of the value of £1,200 a year. We have no doubt the parishioners will not be displeased at the change.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S BILL FOR THE "CORRECTION OF CLERKS."—This measure restores the course of proceeding against the clergy, on account of heresy, false doctrine, blasphemy, or schism, to what it was before the passing of 2 and 3 William IV., cap. 92, and gives an appeal to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Lord Chancellor, the three senior Bishops (in the order of consecration), the Dean of the Arches Court of Canterbury, the Chancellor of the Diocese of London, and the Regius and Margaret Professors of Divinity at Oxford and Cambridge. Pending such appeal (which must be asserted within two months of sentence), the convicted clerk shall perform no clerical duty. In the case of a clerk charged with any offence against the laws ecclesiastical (other than heresy, false doctrine, blasphemy, or schism), or with having been convicted of treason, felony, or perjury, before any temporal court, the bill fixes to whom shall belong cognizance of the cause. With consent of the accused, the inquiry may be private. In every diocese, every archdeacon is to summon the incumbents within his archdeaconry triennially, to elect a jury panel of twelve, four of whom (chosen by lot) shall assist the diocesan in trials under the bill. These are among the principal provisions of the measure.

CHURCH-RATES.—BURY.—On Tuesday last, the overseers of Radcliffe obtained warrants of distress at Bury, for non-payment of church-rates, against Messrs. John Burd and Sons, of Mount Sion Print Works, Radcliffe, for £6 3s. 4d., and Mr. John Burd, for 4s. 4d. The distraint was expected to be made this week, and the sale next week. A person named Ridings, an auctioneer, has offered his services as salesman. The above is causing considerable excitement at Radcliffe amongst the Anti-state-church Society.—*Manchester Examiner*.

A QUAKER'S SENTIMENTS RESPECTING A STATE-CHURCH AND THE CLERGY (From the Journal of Job Scott, written in 1793, pp. 328—330.)—What a number of men are there who assume the station of gospel ministers, and, under that pretence, drain, and even violently force away, from the proper owners, large sums of money, which they do very little to earn! Even if it were right to preach for hire, and if Christ's true ministers could freely and righteously receive money for their ministry (which they by no means can), yet to see a set of almost idle drones living on the honest labours of the industrious, as great numbers of the upper clergy do, whilst they not only thus oppress many poor laymen, as they choose to call them, but also press down to a very low price and poor living even many of the low clergy, who do the work for them; as if a minister of Jesus could have his work done, and his ministry performed faithfully in the sight of God, by hiring another to preach for him, and with money extorted from those it properly and honestly belongs to, whilst themselves live in luxury and at ease in their ceiled houses, and but seldom visit their flock. The prospect of these things is deeply affecting. Oh! most assuredly the land mourns and God is angry because of these things; and in some way or other he will arise and shake the earth, and also this false heaven—this vain and oppressive ministry, and rend the power from the idle, lordly clergy. But whatever be the means, so that it is in the pure counsel of God, my very soul breathes to the Almighty, that he may, in the way of his own good pleasure, hasten the downfall even of Protestant Babylon, rend the power of the idle, useless clergy, and thus emancipate the people from the bondage and oppression they groan under, that the earth may enjoy her sabbaths again. But how these deeply to be pitied, these too worthless, too worldly, and too cruel, pretenders to the ministry of the gospel of Christ; or, how those civil rulers who, to answer the purposes of aggrandizement and power, support them; will be able to settle their accounts in the great day of the Lord, the solemn settlement of all things, is a consideration truly awful! If these hints are ever published, let not delicacy prevail to affect any unnecessary mitigation of the close expressions in which they are couched. It is time these deceivers of men, these dark bodies, who form an *elite* between God and the souls of men, should hear, and seriously hearken to the voice of plain, honest, and undisguised truth. And whether they will hearken and hear, yea or nay, let them be assured God is arising, and will shake and remove them out of the way, and their dominion shall be remembered with abhorrence!

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES GOVERNMENT BILL, 1850.—In reference to the above measure, the following circular has been issued to several members of Parliament, by the active Committee of the Newcastle and Gateshead Religious Freedom Society:—

Newcastle-on-Tyne, Feb. 18, 1850.

SIR.—The Committee instruct me very respectfully to direct your attention to sections 16 and 17, and schedules A. B. and C., parts 3 of the above bill, which proposes to pay out of the Revenue Fund, annually, for "public worship" in—

	£
New South Wales	28,000
Victoria	6,000
Van Dieman's Land	15,000
Total.....	£49,000

And which payments they strongly deprecate.

First: From a deep conviction that any compulsory measures for the support of religion are displeasing to the Author of Christianity, and will be injurious, as they ever have been, to the purity and true prosperity of the Christian religion.

Secondly: Because such grants, even when made to all, do but apparently carry out the principle of equity, since there are large bodies which conscientiously decline to receive them.

And lastly: Because any interference of the State in religious matters inevitably leads—as we have accumulative evidence, both at home and abroad—to civil discord and endless difficulties in the working of public affairs, and is, therefore, particularly to be avoided in founding institutions for new countries.

The committee, therefore, earnestly entreat, even though you may not concur in all the principles upon which they urge the application, to oppose, by your vote, the grants for "Public Worship" which the Australian Colonies Government Bill proposes to make.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

JAMES POTTS, Hon. Sec.

MAKING A CHURCH-RATE.—EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS AT TIVERTON.—On Monday last, a vestry meeting was held at the Old Church, for the purpose of making a church-rate, but on several of the inhabitants proceeding to the vestry to discuss the pros and cons of the subject, they were astonished to find the meeting a very small, but "very select" one; in fact, a hole and corner meeting, composed of the select vestry only, with the churchwarden in the chair, who very coolly informed the said inhabitants, that there was no necessity for consulting them on the subject, but that, by virtue of the powers conferred on them, they, i.e., the select vestry, should make a church-rate themselves, and collect it, too. A remonstrance on behalf of the rate-payers, whose money was thus being voted away in so novel a matter, without their concurrence, was cut short by the vestry, who declared themselves well advised in the step they were taking, and prepared to abide the consequences.—*Western Times*.

SUNDAY LABOUR IN THE POST-OFFICE.—We learn that Lord Ashley has consented to move a series of resolutions in the House of Commons, having for their object the suppression of Sunday labour in the Post-office.—*Christian Times*.

THE HEALTH OF THE DRAW OF WESTMINSTER is so deranged as to preclude all hope of his being able, for at least a very long time, to attend to any duty.—*Church and State Gazette*.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—On Wednesday evening, the 45th annual general meeting of the Bread-street branch of this association was held at the London Coffee-house, Alderman Sidney, M.P., in the chair. It appeared, from a view of the plans and operations of the society, which was submitted to the meeting, that during the 45 years of its existence the society had put into circulation nearly 22,000,000 copies of the Scriptures, either in whole or in part, and its expenditure for this purpose had exceeded £3,500,000 sterling. The receipts for the past year alone had amounted to £95,933 1s. 1d., arising from the usual sources of donations, annual subscriptions, sales, and legacies; the payments during the same period having been £88,831 1s. 2d., and its engagements had exceeded £67,000. There had been issued from its depositaries at home and abroad, within the same year, no fewer than 1,107,518 copies; and if the aggregate issues of foreign Bible societies were added to those of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the grand total would amount to more than 36,000,000 copies of the entire Bible or New Testament, or integral portions thereof, in different language. The adoption of the report having been passed, several practical resolutions were agreed to, and officers for the ensuing year were elected, and the meeting separated, after the usual courtesy to the chairman.—*Times*.

THE REV. JAMES SMITH, of New Park-street, Southwark, having been advised by his physician to remove into the country, for the establishment of his health, resigned his office as pastor of the church in that place, on Thursday evening, February 14, and will terminate his labours there at Midsummer next. We understand that he is not yet engaged with any other church.

After many costs and toils, in the midst of a great social contest, the British empire is now on the point to be the mother of nations. An Englishman may feel proud that he belongs to a country whose mission it is to sow half the world with free institutions, and to a time when that mission is fulfilled.—*Times*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CHAPEL BEGGING IMPOSTOR.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—Your paper of this week contains, under the head "Religious Intelligence," some information about an impostor journeying into Essex, and making collections on behalf of Ebenezer Chapel, Shadwell, without any authority for so doing.

Permit me to throw a ray of light on this affair:—The "Ebenezer" named above (the Rev. H. Harrison's) is not the one represented by this impostor, but a small chapel, formerly a dwelling-house, situated in Cornwall-street, Shadwell, the rent and other expenses of which do not amount to more than a few shillings a week, yet this fellow has the impudence to travel the country and represent himself as being authorized to make subscriptions in its behalf. The man's name is "Dridale," and was, until December last, a member of the "Bible Christian Society." It having come to the knowledge of the ministers and others that the above game was going on, a meeting was called and an explanation demanded, but none could be obtained; the fellow refused to produce any accounts—"he had not kept any books"—"how much money he had got he could not tell." The result was his expulsion; since then he has opened the place on his own account, and as he formerly travelled in Hampshire and Essex "to collect for the cause," has doubtless set out on his "mission" again. It is quite true that he has a "red and full face," and is "stout," and living in such a way, well he may be.

Your readers will agree with me, that a month at the treadmill would leave him not quite so "stout," nor so "red" in the face.

You may rely on the above being facts.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

HENRY SMITH.

Charles-street, Shadwell, Feb. 8, 1850.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR.—It appears that the Chapel Begging Impostor, against whom the public is cautioned in your journal, has been pursuing his vocation in various parts of the kingdom; he called on me about a fortnight since, begging for a chapel belonging to the Christian Association at Shadwell, stating, that some years since he had been a local Wesleyan preacher in the Southampton district, and was then going to Fawley to call on some of the Methodists in that village.

When I read the notice of him in your journal last week, from the description given, I thought it must be the same person, and from Mr. Morison's letter this week, am fully satisfied it is.

On inquiry, I find his name is Grisdale, and that some years since he had a situation in the Custom House at Southampton, and was, as he stated to me, a local Methodist preacher.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

Beaulieu, Feb. 15, 1850.

J. B. BURT.

THE FIRE AT ASHWELL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—Can anything be more distressing than to be compelled to make an appeal to the charity of our friends in order to replace that of which we have been deprived, but payment for which, by a little forethought, and the outlay of a few shillings annually, would have been obtained from one of those noble institutions, instituted for the very purpose, for which our country is so famed?

The destruction of the beautiful chapel at Ashwell cannot but distress every one; but the worst remains to be told. The Rev. E. Richardson, the minister, writes, "How we shall get it up again I know not, as we have only £200 to begin with, besides the old bricks."

It could have been insured (if a brick-built and slated building) to the amount of £1,000, by the annual payment of 50s.; viz., premium 20s., duty 30s. This trifling outlay—or, at least, in this proportion, would have superseded any appeal to public sympathy.

I wish to call special attention to this subject, because I have been informed that comparatively few of the churches and chapels are insured: the cost is so trifling, and the precaution so necessary, that it requires only to be mentioned to secure for it that attention which it has not hitherto received.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS BURR, Secretary.

Kent Mutual Fire Insurance Society,
6, Old Jewry, London, and Rochester, Kent.

Feb. 15, 1850.

THE DISMISSED POSTMAN.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—I hope you will excuse the liberty I take in addressing you, but am anxious to express my sincere thanks for the great interest you have taken in my case: in truth, I feel overwhelmed with gratitude for the sympathy and liberality of so many kind friends, and I now trust that I shall be enabled to support my wife and children in an honest and upright way, and ever be preserved from desecrating God's holy day. With deep feelings of respect and gratitude, I beg to subscribe myself your humble and grateful servant,

R. G. HOWLETT,

The Dismissed Postman.

52, Westbourne-street, Pimlico, Feb. 18th, 1850.

ADVERTISING IN THE "TIMES."

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—I observe in your advertising columns the resolutions of the Committee of the Baptist Union, and confess to a little surprise at part of the 7th, viz., "that the preceding resolutions be advertised in the *Times*."

Every one knows the venality of the *Times*. It is astonishing that so mendacious a paper is supported in this country—and, for a body of professing Christians to come forward and *select* that paper for publishing its resolutions, appears to me somewhat inconsistent, at least.

It is time that Christians should withhold from touching the "unclean thing," and I hold it to be a duty incumbent on them to refrain from even incidental support of an organ notoriously unprincipled; and, much more so, from *selecting* it for the expression of their sentiments.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A TRUTH-SEEKER.

Cardiff, February 12th, 1850.

ESCAPE OF DR. ACHILLI AS DESCRIBED BY HIMSELF.

SIR C. E. Eardley, Bart., is about publishing a pamphlet in reference to the case of Dr. Achilli, which it is stated will embody a variety of valuable and authentic documents on the subject.

From a letter of Dr. Achilli, dated Paris, Feb. 3, we glean the following particulars of his escape:—

"On the 31st of December I was asked for by two persons, who announced themselves as "visitors." The door opened, and in came a priest, in fact, a *Monsignore*, whom I recognised from his purple tippet, and another person, both strangers to me. They received me with great gravity, and, having looked at me from head to foot, made me a signal to sit down. I then discovered that they were two judges, and knew the quarter that they came from. (I afterwards ascertained that the priest was Monsignor Bambozzi, the Fiscal of the Inquisition, and the other the Advocate De Dominicis, Chancellor of the Inquisition.) After we were seated all three round a table, the priest made a sign to the other to write, and began to dictate to him in Latin:—"A certain man (*homo quidam*) appeared before me, who declares his name to be Giacinto Achilli, son of . . . born at . . . aged about . . . dressed (here follows the description of my dress from head to foot), committed to this prison, &c., who, being interrogated whether he knew why he was imprisoned, replied, 'I have been here for six months, and I do not yet know why I was arrested.' Interrogated if he knew by what tribunal he was now arraigned and examined, he replied, 'I wish to be informed.' And being told that he was arraigned and examined by the magistrates of the Holy Inquisition, he replied, 'I am very glad of it.' Admonished to tell the truth, and to recognise in this fact the justice of God and not the vengeance of man, he replied to the first part, 'I promise to tell the truth'; on the second, he was silent."

At this point he produced a quire of paper, covered with writing, and began to read the first page, from which I perceived that it was the minute taken down the second day of my imprisonment, by a judge of the Cardinal Vicar, consisting of a general interrogatory on the whole of my life—that is to say, my education, my studies, my public functions, my occupations, my journeys, and especially that to the Ionian Islands, Malta, England, &c., till my return to Rome; what I had done during the Roman Republic; and finishing with my imprisonment. All this, confronted anew with numerous questions, formed the subject of my first interview with Monsignor Bambozzi and his companion. Four days afterwards, the two magistrates of the Inquisition were again announced. Thereupon a new and very long interrogatory (still in Latin) ensued.

[Dr. Theiner, a priest of the Oratory, subsequently visited Dr. Achilli, and gave him books to read, with the view of bringing him back to the Roman Church.]

I was in the middle of the third visit of the Padre Theiner, in the full fervour of our controversies, when the captain of the castle came to inform me that two *Chasseurs de Vincennes* were arrived, to take me to the French Council of War, to give evidence in the cause of Signor Cernuschi, Deputy of the People under the Republic. I was not more surprised than my theologian, who was even more unable than myself to comprehend how I, separated from the rest of the world by virtue of the laws of the Inquisition, could be summoned before a military tribunal by a foreign authority. The captain added, that there was the permission of the Cardinal Vicar. "Let us go, in the name of the Lord," was my thought. The Padre Theiner accompanied me to the carriage, in which two soldiers, armed with carbines, sat by my side. The tribunal is held at the Ecclesiastical Academy, in the Piazze di Minerva. The *Capitaine Rapporteur* was alone. He put a few questions to me about the person of Cernuschi, and said some other things to me. . . . He then remanded me to the castle.

The next day, the 19th January, my theologian visited me again, and plied me with vehement arguments, and which I answered with arguments still more vehement. Our subject was the bishopric of St. Peter at Rome, and the privilege of succession bequeathed to the Popes; Dr. Theiner all intent on demonstrating, and I on confuting, it. In the midst of the discussion, which had now lasted some time (it now being nearly dark), my gaoler came to tell me that the two *Chasseurs* were come back again to take me to the Military Commission. "Farewell! Padre Theiner. Offer my respects to the Cardinal Vicar, and thank him in my name for your visits, which have given me real pleasure; I hope that both of us may derive profit from them, to confirm us more and more in the word of God!" Having said this, I pressed his hand, and got into the carriage between the two soldiers. This time the carriage was an open one, and, traversing the long street from the Castle to the Minerva, I saw and was seen by many persons. A novel sight indeed! A prisoner of the Inquisition held in custody by the arms of the French Republic! The *Capitaine Rapporteur* was very obliging, and I am sure felt personal sympathy with me. I will not repeat the conversations which I had with him. . . . I will only say that I was greatly cheered, and I could not help feeling as if I were free and my own master. I determined to try if it were so. . . . In an antichamber were several sets of military accoutrements. In moment I had dressed myself *cap-a-pie* as a French soldier. The doors on to the landing were open, and the ingress not guarded by a single individual. It was half-past five in the evening. I did what any one else would have done, and I did it with a smile. I descended into the Piazza di Minerva, passed through the Strada Piè di Marino,

the Piazza del Collegio Romano, and walked through the Corso, disguised as I was. I changed my dress at —, where money was prepared for me. A carriage with post-horses was speedily ready, and a passport. At seven p.m., I passed the walls of Rome, blessing the Lord, and committing to him my country, my brethren, and that infant church which will one day be an example to all the churches, so that it may again be said of the Romans, that "their faith is spoken of throughout the whole world." In six hours I arrived at Civita Vecchia, rested till daylight, presented several letters, and embarked on board a steamer of war. The whole of that day (20th) I passed in the port, engaged in thanking my God, and in praying to Him to provide for me in all respects. I wrote a farewell letter to my brethren in Rome, which I got a person to post. The next day we sailed for Toulon, and from thence I went to Marseilles, where I was unable to remain. I stopped, however, a day at Lyons, to embrace our excellent friend M. Fisch, and the other brethren, who felt as if they could not bless and thank the Lord enough for my unexpected liberation.

THE FEMALE EMIGRATION SCHEME.—A correspondent of the *Morning Post*, using the signature "M. J. W.", exposes what "he cannot help feeling is to a certain extent a fraud upon the benevolent public," in the carrying out of Mr. Sidney Herbert's emigration scheme for the distressed needlewomen. He has "heard, from the very best authority, that the committee have almost entirely departed from their original intention, and that instead of distressed needlewomen, a perfectly different class of females have been selected." Charging the committee with having excited the sympathies of the public, and taken large sums of money for one purpose and then devoted them to another purpose, he adduces some instances which have come to his own knowledge:—"I know that in some cases young women who have been, and are at this moment in situations as ladies'-maids, with very high wages, have been selected as emigrants, and are about to sail to Australia, provided with funds out of the money subscribed for the distressed needlewomen. I am prepared to prove this. I know, also, that a party had engaged a passage in a ship for himself and family, and a few days afterwards he stated to the owners of the ship that he should want two or three berths less than he at first mentioned, because some of his daughters would be provided with a passage by the committee presided over by Mr. Sidney Herbert. He was a man, I believe, quite able to pay for his own passage and the passages of his family."

REDUCTION OF RENTS.—"A general reduction of rents," says the *Times* commissioners, "is, in point of fact, the great object which the farmers of Devon are all now striving to accomplish. As yet the landlords have shown little disposition to grant this, but, whether they decide to do so or not, we think it right to state what we heard, on most respectable authority, that there will be a combination, quiet but effectual in its action, on the part of farmers, to compel an abatement. We found produce rents strongly advocated, several gentlemen giving it as their opinion that the relief afforded thereby would in most cases be sufficient to enable the farmers of Devon, who had sufficient capital and skill, to meet the times."

THE TRUCK SYSTEM IN SOUTH WALES.—A correspondent, under the signature of "A Welsh Collier," writes to the following effect:—"This abominable system has been to a great extent adopted in these districts, especially in the counties of Monmouth and Glamorgan. With some honourable exceptions, the iron-masters and companies will only pay their workmen at shops where the cashier who pays their wages immediately receives back the greater part of the amount for goods of inferior quality and exorbitant price, which can only be refused at the risk of discharge. It would be better for the workman to have fifteen shillings a-week at his own disposal, than a pound under these restrictions. Frequently these shops are so crowded, that the workmen's wives, with infants in their arms,—perhaps after having been obliged to leave home without breakfast,—fainting with exhaustion and fatigue, have to wait for hours to be served, and to submit to the insults of the shopkeepers. Care is taken to keep just beyond the operation of the Anti-Truck Act, in these oppressive usages, alike unfair towards the honest tradesmen of the district and unjust to the workmen."

A COURT OF ALDERMEN was held on Thursday for the despatch of business. The City Remembrancer announced, that notice had been given in the House of Commons of a "Bill for the Abolition of the Payment of Fines and Stamp duties upon the Admission of Freemen of the Corporation of London;" and added, amidst cries of "Hear!" and murmurs, that Alderman Sidney is the giver of the notice. Some members expressed astonishment that Alderman Sidney had taken this step without making any communication to the Freedoms Committee. Alderman Sidney explained, that his bill aims at increasing the constituency and removing the objectionable tax of the stamp: it will give to all persons resident in London for a year and a day, the right to vote at the election of municipal officers, without fine for freedom. He had every reason to believe that the measure would have the support of the Government.

ROCHDALE SAVINGS BANK.—Last week the trustees came to the conclusion of offering a dividend of 10s. in the pound, if the depositors would sign a release. The committee of the depositors have called them together for next Tuesday night, when the proposal will be submitted to their consideration.—*Manchester Guardian.*

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

THE LAW ON PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The organic law on Public Instruction has again been the subject of animated debates in the Legislative Assembly. On Friday, 17 clauses had been adopted.

In the course of the discussion, the Abbé Parisis, Bishop of Langres, said that the bishops would enter into the council, to there defend the integrity and the inviolability of those holy doctrines of which they would not consent to change one iota—that they regarded them as a sacred deposit which they must preserve intact. But it appeared to him that, if the bishops should declare that such or such a programme was calculated to injure religion, their conscience could not be persecuted. If, in the spirit of the law, the State was not to interfere in teaching religion, he had understood that it would allow those who were men connected with religion to teach it, and that those would be specially placed under the protection and safeguard of the Minister of Public Worship [hear]. That would be so much the more easy, as there would be fewer mixed schools.

On Tuesday week the debate was upon the 7th clause, which institutes an academy in each department. This clause was opposed by M. Wallon, and supported by M. Montalembert, who said that the article contained quite a new creation, which he regarded as the pivot of the whole law. No departmental council had hitherto existed. The committee wished to place the focus of public instruction in the chief town of each department, because it was the seat of the bishop, of the administration, and of the Council-General. The presence of the bishops in the academic councils would afford the greatest advantage. All the prelates of France, each in their diocese, would thus participate in the direction of education.

On Wednesday, M. Thiers and M. Barthélémy St. Hilaire were the principal speakers. M. Thiers, in his address, defended his apparent change of opinions on this subject. The committee could not be charged with injustice for introducing four catholic archbishops and bishops into the High Council of the University. That number was not even in proportion with the immense majority of the Catholic population.

He had lived on intimate terms for the last two years with men he had been in the habit of considering as adversaries. They had discussed together questions far more difficult than the composition of the academical councils, and they had perfectly understood each other without either party being obliged to make the sacrifice of his opinions. Bishop Parisis he was sure would not contradict him (the Bishop bowed assent). Youth, continued M. Thiers, required to be respected, and books, insulting to their religion, should not be placed in their hands ("There is no State religion," cried a member on the Left). "I admit it," replied M. Thiers, "but I will ask my honourable interrupter to take up a map of France, and to tell me in what category would a geographer class a country containing 34,000,000 of Catholics out of a population of 36,000,000. Say what we will, you cannot prevent France being a Catholic nation." He had, on a former occasion, advocated the union of the church and philosophy. He believed that union possible, and the law had been framed with a view to cement it ("It is impracticable!" exclaimed a member on the Left). "Do you desire the destruction of philosophy?" inquired M. Thiers ("No, no!" on the Left). "Do you desire that of religion?" ("No, no!" exclaimed the same voices.) "Then," added M. Thiers, "let them live together. You tell us that our law will be unavailable, and that we cannot succeed. I will tell you, in my turn, that we will not be the only party who has not succeeded for the last two years" [loud laughter throughout the Assembly].

On Thursday some discussion took place previous to the adoption of the tenth and eleventh articles (the previous ones having been agreed to), which decide the nature of the academical councils. The Council of Paris to be composed as follows:—The rector, president, the prefect, the Archbishop of Paris or his delegate, a minister of the Reformed Church, a minister of the Confession of Augsburg, and a number of the central Israelite consistory, elected by their respective consistories; three Inspectors of Academies appointed by the Minister; a judge of the Court of Appeal, elected by the Court; a judge of the Tribunal of First Instance, similarly elected; four members of the Municipal Council of Paris, and two members of the Council General of the Seine, elected by their colleagues and the Secretary-General of the Prefecture of the department.

M. Barthélémy St. Hilaire replied to M. Thiers, saying that it was unfair to accuse the university of democratic tendencies. An appeal had, he said, been made to conciliation and concord, but he denied that any such existed, when it was evident from the reservations made by the Bishop of Langres that one of the contracting parties to the measure only waited for the contract to be finished to reject it if it did not suit him.

MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS.—Hitherto there have been seventeen military divisions in France, each under the command of a general officer, who corresponded with the war minister. Now there are to be but four military districts, besides that of the capital under the command of General Changarnier; each district to be commanded by one general. Three of these have been appointed already, and it is to be proposed in the Assembly that each general officer may have the power, on any indication of disorder in his district, of declaring a state of siege. General Castellane will command the 12th military division at Bordeaux, and the 14th and 15th at Nantes and Rennes. General Rostolan will command the 8th as well as the 9th and 10th division,

at Montpellier, Perpignan, and Toulouse. General Gimeau will command the 6th and 5th divisions, at Lyons and Besançon. Grave though this measure is in the present position of France, it is only a portion of the plan which is to be ultimately brought into operation. In a short time the whole of the departments of the north of France are to be added to the already powerful army under the command of General Changarnier, and the whole of the military forces in France will be under the direct command of four or five generals, instead of under that of seventeen, as at present. Almost every one looks upon this measure as the forerunner of some important events connected with Louis Napoleon's plans for the continuance of his term of office, or the establishment of the empire. In this light the measure creates no small uneasiness, both on the part of the Republicans, who wish for the continuance of the present form of government, and of the Monarchists, who still cling to the idea of another restoration of the Bourbons.

THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS.—The Socialists are displaying the greatest activity in Paris with a view to the approaching elections. In each arrondissement meetings have taken place, and delegates been appointed. These delegates, to the number of fifteen for each arrondissement, are intended to form a central committee, whose duty it will be to examine the claims of candidates, and propose them to the Socialist electors. On Thursday, a meeting was held in the Salle Martel, in which nearly 3,000 persons were assembled. The question for discussion was the proposed alliance between the party known as the "Friends of the Constitution," and the fraction whose organ is the *National* newspaper. The more violent portion of the Socialist orators denounced any alliance with the "hypocrites" who, only with a view to their own interests, assumed for the moment the mask of Socialism. The question was long and warmly discussed, and after a pretty handsome average of vituperation on both sides the project of a fusion between the parties was, we are assured, finally and indignantly rejected.

ITALY.

THE CARNIVAL AT ROME.

Letters from Rome of the 5th, quoted by the *Statuto* of Florence, say that, on the first day of the Carnival processions in the Corso, which are held during the last eight days of the season, the Corso was quite deserted, and not a carriage was to be seen; and that on the second day about twelve or fifteen carriages only made their appearance—the general feeling of the inhabitants being against festivity, as there is hardly a family but has suffered from dismissal, exile, or imprisonment of one of its members. The *Daily News* correspondent says:—"You may form a tolerable idea of the spirit which animates the Romans to forego the Carnival amusements this year, by the following address, which, secretly printed and abundantly distributed amongst the people, has awakened an enthusiastic echo in their bosoms:—

THE CARNIVAL OF 1850.

Let us console ourselves! The paternal bowels of the priestly government are moved to tenderness! It presents us with half a Carnival. An envenomed irony; the oppressor says to the oppressed, "Amuse thyself amidst thy sighs."

The ancient tyrants of Rome oppressed the people, but they gave them bread and shows in order not to hear the cries of their victims. The priests have poured grape-shot upon the people; they have proscribed and imprisoned many; they impose taxes; they turn away *employés*, and rob them of their pensions; they dismiss workmen; they deprive the people of bread; but they give them shows. The barbarity of the priests is greater than that of the ancient tyrants.

They have said amongst themselves, "Rome now sees clearly; the people recollect that Christ died on the cross to break their chains, and that we rivet them anew; that Christ and the apostles did not preach humility from gilded carriages; that they desired to give all to the people, whilst we only seek to fatten at their expense; that they spoke to the intellect by the power of truth; but we speak with lies and canons."

Christ, however, was not a king, as we are. By imitating Christ we should lose our temporal power, our luxuries, our debaucheries, our women. . . . Let us abandon Christ and imitate Nero. Charity is the law of Christ, ours is egotism; nothing for the people, everything for us. Rome is indignant; her dignified deportment is a continued protest; we must deprive her of this deportment, which renders her superior to us although conquered—let us give her a carnival; let her but put on the mask of happiness and her protest is null. No one will give farther credit to her grief, to her oppression—it will be said, Rome amuses herself, Rome keeps her carnival, Rome is happy! Our lies will be thought truths, her truths lies! Thus have they spoken to each other, but they have forgotten one thing—it is the people who will have to sum up their account.

The municipality echoes the words of the priests; worthy of its creation by Oudinot it deprives the labourers of a part of their daily wages, a portion of their bread. . . . but invites them to the Carnival. It is of course just that the people must pay with their bread for the coining of the medal which that assembly of Cossacks presented to its creator, General Oudinot, in the name of the Roman people, thus honouring with a solemn lie the most lying General in the world—is it not all fair? If the people pay for the medal with the sweat of their brow, can it be doubted that the medal comes from them? That they are delighted at it? The people have the carnival—is that not enough?

Let us console ourselves. The Pope in his last *encyclica* says, that our brothers, who died for the defence of Rome, expired in the arms of filthy prostitutes. . . . He calls prostitutes the sister who raised her dying brother, the mother who closed the eyes of her son, the wife who embraced her husband for the last time! . . . He calls prostitutes all those who by succouring the wounded obeyed the law of charity and love, the law of the Gospel! . . . He calls prostitutes all those who admired or pitied them! Prostitutes all the women of Rome!

But what does all this signify, O women of Rome! The priests give us a carnival: you must forget your brothers and the woes of our country, you must swallow the cup of insult, you must pretend to be happy and renounce the gentleness of concubines who will go and parade in the Corso! Hunger and half a show! Oppression and derision. Such are the paternal intentions of the priests! Let them still deride and oppress. Our determination is strong. That hour and that judgment will be our reply to their irony, that will be the true and spontaneous carnival of the people!

Viva the 9th February, the anniversary of our republic!

The effect of this document here—if, indeed, any such appeal was necessary—has been to render the majority of all classes unanimous in their refusal to carnivalize—a refusal comprising a considerable sacrifice of pecuniary interest on the part of shopkeepers and lodging-letters, who usually derive a good profit from their balconies, seats, and stands in the Corso, and who have not put up one of their ornamented and festooned boxes this year for the accommodation of ladies.

Letters from Rome, of the 9th instant, state that, at eleven o'clock on that day, a grand demonstration took place on the Corso, by all the Republicans, which terminated in a peaceable promenade, and without disturbance. The demonstration will probably confirm the Pope in his determination not as yet to return.

SICILY.—There have been disturbances at Palermo. On the 27th of January crowds paraded the streets, crying out for the constitution of 1812, and "Viva Ruggiero Settimo!" A great number of persons were arrested, and six of the ringleaders were tried by drum-head court-martial, and shot. By the latest accounts the place was again quiet.

PORTUGAL.

In Portugal a law has been introduced by Count Thomar, in the Chamber of Deputies, for exercising greater influence over the press. Offending newspaper editors are to be tried, not before a jury, but by nine judges of the district—six civil and three criminal. Such, at least, is the proposal of Count Thomar, who does not like editors.

AUSTRIA.

STATE OF HUNGARY.—The *Daily News* correspondent at Vienna, writing on the 7th instant, says:—"Prince Windischgrätz has been here, but is already gone again. He stayed but one day, and then left for one of his estates in Hungary. During the time he was here he had interviews with the chief Ministers, and it is supposed that he really enters Hungary in the character of a mediator between the aristocratic party in Hungary and the Austrian Government. Some step of this kind has become imperatively necessary, for the Government is met on all sides, and by all parties, with the most determined but passive resistance; among the peasantry not one can be found willing to undertake the office of village judge. Of course, a re-union between the court and the aristocracy of Hungary would have but little effect among the middle and lower classes in that kingdom; and I am very much afraid that it may hasten the outbreak which, though inevitable, would otherwise have been delayed for a considerable period.

"**YOU MUST GO FROM HOME TO HEAR NEWS.**"—The *Reichs Zeitung*, the famed creation of Dr. Bach, brings the following diverting correspondence from London in its latest number:—"Last night (Jan. 31) a stormy demonstration took place against Lord Palmerston, and only to the swift interposition of the military did the beautiful palace of his lordship owe its preservation from further damage. Not a single pane of glass was left whole. My next will bring you the circulating lists of the new Ministry. At the moment I am writing fresh mobs are assembling before the palace of the quondam favourite."

GERMANY.

BERLIN, 12TH.—In the second chamber, the Minister of War laid on the table a bill for granting an extraordinary credit for military purposes. The maintenance of the army above the peace footing is reported to be owing to the opposition manifested by the Emperor of Russia to the Erfurt parliament, rendering it necessary for Prussia to be prepared for any warlike emergency.

A decree of the 12th instant prolongs the state of siege and of courts-martial for the Grand Duchy of Baden for another term of four weeks.

The note of the Prussian Cabinet, protesting against the charge contained in the King of Denmark's speech from the throne, that Prussia had supported the misguided subjects of the Danish Sovereign, had been published. The note asserts that Prussia has the right and duty of carrying on the negotiation on behalf of the German Bund, but does not enter into the particular charge made in the Danish address.

It was decided that the Erfurt Parliament should meet on the 20th of March. The decree summoning it to assemble had been published.

GREECE.

Accounts from Athens, to the 31st ult., inform us that Admiral Parker had extended the blockade to all merchant vessels as well as men-of-war. The Russian Chargé d'Affaires and the Austrian Minister had placed at the disposal of the Greek Government a Russian corvette and an Austrian steamer. The Government was doing the utmost to preserve tranquillity in the interior, and no disorder had been committed. To the question of Mr. Green, the English Consul, as to whether English subjects and Ionians residing at Athens could remain there in safety, or should leave the place, M. Londos replied that the Government of King Otho would accord its protection to all English subjects or Ionians, but that it was no part of the duty of the Government to dictate to them their line of conduct. M. Londos was also anxious to impress on the mind of the Consul that the Government could not be hereafter responsible for the losses or damage caused to English subjects in spite of and unknown to the Greek Government. The Consul consequently published a circular, in which he stated that as Admiral Parker and Mr. Wyse had not yet obtained the satisfaction they required, it would be impossible for

them to avoid having recourse to measures of a severer kind, which would seriously affect the interests of the Greeks of all classes. He therefore gave notice to English subjects and Ionians, that all who were afraid might hold themselves in readiness to watch over their own personal security. In consequence of this circular, the representatives of all the powers accredited to the Greek Government held a meeting, and sent a collective note to Mr. Wyse, requesting to be informed if the measures announced by Admiral Parker were in reality of a character sufficiently serious to affect all classes of the Greek population, and whether they would also endanger the safety of their respective countrymen. The reply to this note stated that they need not feel any apprehension for the present, and that Admiral Parker would use every possible effort to defend the interests and persons placed under their protection. The ambassador from Greece to the French Republic had arrived in Paris.

Admiral Parker has taken possession of Sapienza, one of the islands demanded, landed marines, and carried in several ships. The French and Russians, it would seem, have offered their mediation, but Sir W. Parker seems to have declined it. The British war steamers cruising in the Archipelago had detained and sent in to those islands a number of Greek coasting craft, either in ballast or with cargoes, bound to Greek ports, the better to protect against piracy or a surprise upon the British fleet by brulottes, or fire-ships, for which description of warfare the Greeks have ever been famous.

SWITZERLAND.

The *Constitutionnel* publishes the following letter from the frontiers of Switzerland, dated the 11th instant:—"The news received from Switzerland is less satisfactory than preceding accounts. A great agitation prevails in the cantons of Geneva and Vaud, particularly on the side of Lausanne and Nyon, and the moderate party at Berne fear a rising against it. The Swiss Radicals are hoping for a movement at Paris, Lyons, and Strasburg, and propose to make their movement coincident with those they expect to take place in France. The Genevese reckon on a patriotic contingent furnished by the communes round Geneva for the demolition of the fortifications; the works continue in spite of the opposition of the Federal Council, and are carried on very actively. On Sunday, the 17th, a banquet is to be held to celebrate the demolition of the fortifications, which is considered at Geneva as the triumph of democracy. There is considerable agitation visible in the district of Yverdun."

Mazzini has left Switzerland.

According to a letter in the *National*, eleven Austrian battalions are concentrated round Como. Three thousand men are at Luino. France has consented. England alone still resists. A note has been sent by the Austrian Government to the Cabinet of Turin, to demand the passage for a body of troops through the Piedmontese territory.

DENMARK AND THE DUCHIES.

The Danish Cabinet has acceded to Lord Palmerston's proposal of a promulgation of the armistice between Prussia and Denmark for another term of six months, under the condition that the convention of the armistice should be loyally adhered to by either party.

AMERICA.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION.—Advices have been received from Boston to the 6th inst. The most interesting event in the transactions of the United States Congress is the introduction of a series of resolutions into the Senate by Mr. Elby. These resolutions propose an amicable arrangement of all the controverted topics between the free and slave States. The first maintains the admission of California into the American Union, free from any restriction on the exclusion or introduction of slavery within its limits. In the second resolution it is provided that territorial government should be established by Congress in the territories acquired from Mexico, without the imposition of any condition on the subject of slavery. The third and fourth resolutions contend that the western boundary of Texas be fixed on the Rio del Norte, from its mouth to the mouth of the Rabine. The fifth and sixth assert that slavery ought not to be abolished in the districts of Columbia during the existence of the institution in the States of Maryland without the consent of the people of the district, and a just compensation to the owners of the slaves, and that the slave-trade, under certain conditions, should be abolished within the federal district as repugnant to the common feelings of mankind. In the two final resolutions it is urged that provision should be made by Congress for the more effectual restitution of slaves in any State escaping into any other State or territory; and that Congress has no power to prohibit the trade in slaves between the several States, that being an arrangement to be decided, according to the principles of the Constitution, by the particular laws of the States themselves. The resolutions were sustained by Mr. Clay, in a speech of masterly eloquence and ability, which produced a strong sensation on the Senate; they were ordered to be made the subject of special consideration in the Senate on Tuesday, February 5.

THE ANNEXATION MOVEMENT IN CANADA.—In Quebec the Annexationist candidates had been defeated. A despatch from Earl Grey, under date Downing-street, January 9, appears in the papers. He approves the dismissal from service of those who had signed the annexation document. The remainder of the despatch we give at length:—"Her Majesty confidently relies on the loyalty of the great

majority of her Canadian subjects, and she has therefore determined to exert all the authority that belongs to her for the purpose of maintaining the connexion of Canada with this Government, being persuaded that the permanence of that connexion is highly advantageous to both. Your lordship will, therefore, understand that you are commanded by her Majesty to resist, to the utmost of your power, any attempt which may be made to bring about the separation of Canada from British dominion, and to make known in the strongest manner her Majesty's displeasure with all those who may directly or indirectly encourage such a design; and if any attempt of this kind should take such a form that those who are guilty of it may, according to such advice as you may receive from your law advisers, be made responsible for their conduct in a court of justice, you will not fail to take the necessary measures for bringing them to account."

The Washington correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* says:—"I learn from an authentic source that the Captain-General of Cuba has been instructed by his Government to liberate the slaves in case of an invasion or insurrection."

"The Hudson's Bay Company, through the British Minister, have renewed their proposition, made during the administration of President Polk, to the United States Government, to dispose of all their possessory rights in Oregon south of 49 degrees for 1,000,000 dollars. This proposition was communicated to the Senate in executive session. The price asked is the same as before."

Between fifty and sixty persons had been killed by the explosion of a boiler at New York.

News has been received by the "Empire City" from California to Dec. 31. The Assembly met on the 17th, and Governor Burnett was inaugurated Governor on the 31st. The Assembly met and elected Senators Fremont and Gwin. Governor Burnett's message congratulated the citizens on the formation of the state, and on government excluding slavery. The mining operations have been suspended in consequence of snow and rains. A tremendous conflagration had taken place at San Francisco, on the 24th December, destroying a large portion, probably one-half, of the city. The loss is estimated at from 1,500,000 dols. to 2,000,000 dols. The constitution was adopted, 12,000 being in its favour, and 8,000 against it. It appears that at San Francisco the common estimate of the present population in Upper California is beyond 200,000, although, as is usual in all such cases, this would most probably be found excessive. The number in the city was at least 50,000, and the progress of the place was daily becoming more wonderful. There was employment for all, and the wages of ordinary labouring men were from five dollars to ten dollars a day, and for carpenters about 16 dollars. A large number of Chinese were now included in the population, and several excellent hotels are kept by them. They were mostly, however, employed in constructive labour, and could earn as carpenters about seven dollars a day. Houses from China are constantly arriving, and were ornamental in their appearance, while the architectural features of the city generally were far beyond what would be imagined.

Late advices from Venezuela mention that affairs exhibited a high degree of prosperity. General Paez was still in confinement. The coffee crop was abundant. Another engagement was said to have taken place between the Haytian and Dominican fleets. Some of the foreign merchants had refused to comply with all the requirements of the monopoly law in regard to the sale of foreign produce. The monopoly on coffee was taken off by a royal decree of the Emperor on the 10th of last month.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

INTERESTING TRIAL AT FLORENCE.—A correspondent of the *Christian Times* gives the following account of an interesting trial which has just taken place in Florence. Last spring a very numerous edition of the New Testament, in Martini's version, which is a Catholic one, was issued from the presses of Benelli, under the direction of Captain Packenham, R.N. The clergy, finding themselves supported by the government, managed to bring about the seizure and sequestration of this edition. Capt. Packenham desired that the affair should be brought before the tribunals, and the decision has just been given. The principal accusations were laid against Benelli, who was defended by the advocate Mari. Captain Packenham, and the binder of the first edition of 9,000 copies of Martini, were heard as witnesses. The advocate Mari made an excellent defence, that frequently drew forth loud applause from the numerous auditory. "The law of the press," said he, "has a rule and an exception. The accuser demands the rule, and the accused the exception. He demands the exception so much the more confidently because the Bible is not a book of man, but is the Word of God: it does not treat, *ex professo*, of religion, because it is in itself this very religion. Therefore the legislator cannot subject it to a censorship, and no censor could essay to modify it without falling into heresy. Besides, the law which established the Roman religion as the religion of the State, and which only tolerates two other forms of established worship, having granted to all Tuscans, of whatever religion, all civil and military rights, cannot withhold the Bible from those Tuscans who profess the religion of the Bible; and in order that they may possess the Word of God, they must necessarily have the right of printing it. He argued that public right and jurisprudence do not suffer that conscience should be violated, and that, therefore, without exception of party or of sect, liberty of conscience, liberty of worship, and liberty of the press, were virtually granted by the

law itself." The sentence was then announced for Tuesday; but, a little later, a new decree was issued, causing it to be pronounced this morning (January 21st). Bellini is fined fifty scudi, and the confiscation of the Bibles is exacted.

By accounts from New Zealand we learn that a magnificent harbour has been discovered to the south of Queen Charlotte's Sound.

THE ENGLISH PRESS IN ROME.—By an order of the police, the majority of the English, French, and Italian newspapers are now forbidden to be read in the *cafés* and reading-rooms, and are therefore stopped at the post-office. Even the British consul has had his usual papers detained; and the only way to get a sight of a liberal journal of any nation will be soon to go to the French embassy. I need not say that the *Daily News* is comprised in the list of dangerous and damnable publications—*seditious et sans dire*. The *Times*, however, is a paper more after the priest's own heart, and therefore no obstacle is made to its introduction.—*Daily News*.

A MAGNANIMOUS ELECTOR.—It is reported, according to the correspondent of the *Times* at Prussia, that in a provincial electoral district one elector for the Erfurt Parliament presented himself to the returning officer and constituted the college; this individual voted for himself on principle, and then on principle declined the honour conferred on him.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—The *Launceston Examiner* complains bitterly of the sectarian system of education introduced by the Governor of Van Diemen's Land (Governor Denison, the brother of the Bishop of Salisbury) into the colony. "All the properly-qualified teachers sent to this colony have been starved out; some have left the colony; others have sought different occupations, and others have opened schools on their own account. Their places are now supplied by prisoners and other incompetent persons, who, under the auspices of the clergy, impart 'sound religious instruction' to their pupils. It is one of the foulest blots which now stains the character of Sir William Denison and his sacerdotal satellites, that they have committed the children of the poor to the custody of *convicts and unqualified preceptors*. It has occurred under the existing system, that the teacher has reeled into the school-room oblivious of his duties; taught the children entrusted to his charge to play cards, addressed them in language happily only common in the chain-gang, and purloined and pledged the books supplied by Government. But this is 'sound religious instruction.'"

PRINCELY MUNIFICENCE.—Mr. J. H. Schroeder, a merchant of Hamburg, who has also establishments in London and Liverpool, is going to spend a million, that is, about £80,000 for a charitable purpose. A mansion is to be erected for 50 or 60 destitute families to live in, and an investment to be made besides for their maintenance during life.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA is in treaty with the Duke of Braschi for the purchase of his splendid palace in the Piazza Navona, with all the precious relics of art which it contains, for the sum of six hundred thousand dollars—it is indeed stated that the bargain is concluded.—*Roman Correspondent of the Daily News*.

Letters from Cognac state that the export of brandy from that town was never so great as at the present moment. All the coopers in the neighbourhood are not sufficient to supply casks for the merchants.

Galignani says: "An idea of the extent of the mischief committed during the days of February may be formed from the fact that the court of liquidation of the civil list is about to sell by auction 50,000 lb. of broken glass and crystal, belonging to the furniture and services of the old Palais National. Broken porcelain has been already sold for 6,000f."

A letter from Arad states that the military authorities of Pesth have issued a warrant for the arrest of Mr. C. Pridham, a correspondent of the *Times*. He had returned from Transylvania, and was secreted somewhere in Hungary.—*Morning Post*.

Severe storms have lately visited Constantinople. The violence of the wind was such that trees were torn up by the roots, houses blown down, and the fish driven to the shores of the Bosphorus in such quantities that they were taken by the hand.

THE EDINBURGH RESOLUTIONS ON EDUCATION.—Mr. George Combe has published a statement of his reasons for not subscribing to the educational resolutions recently passed in Edinburgh. His chief objection to the proposed scheme is supplied by the power with which it is proposed to invest a majority of the heads of families to "select masters, fix the branches to be taught, and manage the schools." This, Mr. Combe contends, is inconsistent with the rights of conscience of the minority, who may, under the scheme proposed, be taxed to teach a creed they do not hold, and be put to the expense of teaching their own children, in religion at least, separately. Mr. Combe also objects to the resolutions, inasmuch as they do not state whence the funds required are to be drawn. He concludes by stating his preference for the plan of the Lancashire Public School Association, from which he makes extracts defining the kind of instruction which should be given, excluding all catechisms and creeds, but inculcating those precepts which all Christians recognise in the Scriptures.

The celebrated collection of Dutch pictures, belonging to the late King William the Third, is to be sold. The Emperor Nicholas is likely to be the purchaser.

IRELAND.

FIRST SALE UNDER THE ENCUMBERED ESTATES COMMISSION.—The first sale under the provisions of the Encumbered Estates Act (a private one), took place on Thursday before the three commissioners at their chambers in Henrietta-street. The property for sale was part of the fee simple estate of Mr. D'Arcy in the county of Westmeath, and was sold in two lots, to suit the convenience of purchasers. The land, it seems, did not exceed the average quality, neither was its value increased by any of those artificial incidents, present or future, which might be supposed to weigh with the purchaser in seeking an investment for his capital; and yet, notwithstanding, the prices realized were respectively at the rate of twenty-five and twenty-seven years' purchase.

THE TENANT-RIGHT QUESTION.—Two documents, deemed to be of great importance on the question of tenant-right and tenant compensation, have just made their appearance in the Irish papers—one, "A plea for tenant-right, addressed to the occupying tenants of Ulster," by Mr. Sharman Crawford; and the other, a letter addressed to Mr. Crawford himself on the same absorbing subject, by Mr. Skilling, Professor of Agriculture in the Queen's College, Galway. It is remarkable that opinion in favour of simple tenant-right is rapidly gaining ground, and that many persons who advocated compensation for improvements alone, now feel constrained to go a good deal farther.—Meetings still continue in some parts of the north and north-west. Meetings are to be held next week at Inniskeen, on the Monaghan border of Louth, and at Drumkeeran, county of Leitrim.

ANOTHER DENUNCIATION OF THE "GODLESS COLLEGES."—The Most Rev. Archbishop Slattery has just issued his ukase, addressed to the "Catholic clergy and people of Cashel and Emly," denouncing the Queen's Colleges in terms which would rejoice the heart of Dr. M'Hale himself, on account of their "grievous and intrinsic dangers," and in conformity with the judgment pronounced upon them by the Holy See. By this bull it is declared to be unlawful for Roman Catholics to encourage or frequent these institutions.

THE POLITICAL CONVICTS.—The friends of Mr. John Martin have published some extracts of a letter written by that ill-fated gentleman immediately on his arrival at Sydney. His health, he says, is excellent, and in a fair and manly spirit he requests that no misrepresentation of his treatment on board will get publicity. His words are:—"Complaints of grievances are disagreeable, even when there are grievances; but we have met with nothing of the kind—uniform courtesy and inoffensive demeanour from all, and civility and kindness from many. I am pretty sure that the instructions to officiate in charge of us were to treat us civilly. See that there be no complaining about our treatment."

THE IRISH ALLIANCE.—A meeting of the Council of the Irish Alliance was held at their rooms, College-green, Mr. Martin Banke, T.C., in the chair. A discussion arose on the subjects of household and manhood suffrage, seconded by Mr. Duffy, was adopted, and ordered to be brought before the next public meeting. Mr. Stritch next introduced another motion, of which notice had been given—"That it be an instruction to the organization committee to consider and report upon the best means to be taken by the Irish Alliance in order to enable the national party in this country to co-operate with the movement party in England, in a common struggle for the attainment of the rights so long denied to the democracies of both countries. Mr. Duffy stated that he was in communication of a private nature with a leading member of the English movement party on the subject, and that that body was anxious to be informed of the way of identifying itself in action with the popular party in Ireland. The council discussed the question, and agreed that with the concurrence of the English Reformers the Alliance should be represented at a demonstration in some leading town in England.

ST. MARYLEBONE BANK FOR SAVINGS.—The 20th annual general meeting of this institution was held on Friday, at the office, No. 78, Welbeck-street, the Rev. J. T. Spry, D.D., in the chair. It appeared from the several reports read to the meeting that the progress of this bank during the past year had been of a very satisfactory description, no less than 2,487 new deposits having been made in the last year; 20,382 deposit accounts remained open on the 20th Nov. last, of which 15,495 held balances averaging less than £3 1s. 4d. each. The sum in the hands of the Government on the 20th Nov., 1849, as per receipt from the National Debt Office, signed by Mr. Higham, and laid before the meeting, was £311,094 2s. 3d.; in the hands of the treasurer, Sir Claude Edward Scott, Bart., whose acknowledgement was likewise produced, £1,026 15s. 10d.; in the hands of the actuary, £33 9s. 6d.; total, £312,154 7s. 6d. The balance due to depositors at that date, as per balance-sheets produced, £311,447 4s. 3d.; surplus, £707 3s. 3d. It is stated that the balance due to depositors has since risen to £316,210 15s.

THE FIRE IN LAMBETH.—The losses sustained by the various offices at the late fire at Lambeth are estimated at £24,600. Supposed amount of property destroyed and not insured, £10,000. Making a total destruction of property to the amount of £34,600.

THE PAPER DUTIES.

In the Postscript of our last number we stated that a deputation of gentlemen, representing paper-makers, publishers, and printers, in England and Scotland, had an interview with Lord John Russell, yesterday week, in reference to the paper duties. The statements they made are of too interesting and important a character to be altogether passed over.

Mr. CROMPTON urged the unfairness of imposing on a raw material of the most worthless character—the very refuse made from cotton and linen in the process of manufacturing them into cloth—a duty amounting to 600 per cent. upon its cost price when made into paper; whilst cotton manufacturers have obtained the removal of a tax of only five-sixths of a penny per pound—not more than 5 per cent. on its value—on the cotton itself. He detailed various checks on enterprise flowing from the inconsistency and capriciousness of the Excise:—

Here (said Mr. Crompton, producing specimens of what appeared to be paper) are specimens of numerous articles brought into the market as substitutes for paper, and in appearance so identically the same with that article, that even I, my lord, without marking them, could not distinguish between the real commodity and its imitation, and I will defy any other man to select the one from the other. Now, at the mere caprice of the officers of Excise, the real or the fictitious production is pronounced to be paper. One hundred per cent. is accordingly levied upon the cost value of the one, while the other goes free. By a decision of the Board of Excise, in order to constitute paper, the material must have been pulverized and worked in water. It occurred to a manufacturer to take advantage of this official definition. He erected premises, and constructed machinery for the purpose of fabricating the very same materials in a dry state. He succeeded, and challenged the Board of Excise to seize the goods, which, according to their authoritative description, could not be paper. A seizure was made; but a compromise took place. The manufacturer was allowed to proceed for a given time, on the distinct understanding that after its expiration he should discontinue his process, or subject his product to the same duty with that upon paper manufactured in the usual way. I believe it was discontinued accordingly; but it was subsequently revived, and is at this moment carried on; the goods being sold under the name of felt, extensively substituted for paper, and distinguishable from that manufacture by no perceptible difference except by being slightly darker in colour." About two years ago, a general order was issued from the Board of Excise to the effect that paper to be made into papier maché should be exempted from duty provided the paper were manufactured on the premises on which the papier maché manufacture was carried on, but not otherwise. Now, observe the operation of this. I was under the necessity of either allowing the papier maché manufacturer to come to my premises, or of erecting paper-making machinery on his, or, finally, of allowing myself to be superseded in his supply. Finding myself thus situated, I memorialized the Board of Excise, as well as the Lords Commissioners of the Privy Council for the Affairs of Trade, as did also my customer, one of the most respectable and extensive manufacturers of papier maché in the kingdom: but neither of us could succeed in obtaining permission for me to send out paper under permit, giving notice to the officer of Excise to that effect, so as to be allowed a drawback." Mr. Crompton also stated that the tax has a very demoralizing tendency: it is encouraging the most iniquitous practices, and gradually breaking down the probity of the manufacturers; for you see daily in the market paper sold at prices at which no honest trader can produce it, trammelled as he is by this most oppressive and obnoxious law.

Mr. ROBERT CHAMBERS illustrated the pressure of the paper-duties on the publication of cheap periodical literature. There was one called a "Miscellany of Tracts," which his brother and he published. It met a large sale, and was in the way of doing some good amongst the humbler classes. It returned, however, so slight a profit that they gave it up, while selling to the extent of 80,000 copies. On the whole amount of this work printed, the duty was £6,220. Now, this would have been a very ample profit in itself, though a mere shade upon each copy. In a cheap publication, the value of paper may be set down at nearly one-fourth of the selling price, and considerably above one-third of the price to the retailer.

Mr. CHARLES KNIGHT developed the injurious tendency of the tax on "cheap publications for which high-priced skilled authorship is paid." He had been able to show that the duty had been a positive burden upon the "Penny Cyclopaedia" to the extent of £16,600. That work was undertaken under the auspices of Lord John Russell himself, amongst other eminent persons, but the cost had been borne by Mr. Knight. It had never been remunerative; for the cost was largely increased by the natural operation of the tax upon the price of paper. This was an example of the peculiar burden of the tax upon the higher kind of literary labour, compelled to compete with low-priced authorship in the rate of cheapness. Mr. Knight believed that the great mass of publications were tending to cheapness—the good as well as the bad. He believed that books for the few were fast going out of demand; and further, that the many would ultimately pay the proper rewards of good writers as well as, if not better, than under the present system of a limited demand. But with the paper duty, the profits of a publisher employing the best authors to produce cheap books were so curtailed by the burden of the tax upon the large amount of paper used for such books, that the higher class of literature was deprived of its proper encouragement.

Mr. HUME wound up with a general review of the questions involved; and the deputation withdrew, "having," according to the newspaper report, "been received with the greatest courtesy by the noble lord." But what besides "courtesy" may have been accorded to the deputation by the noble lord—what opinion the First Lord of the Treasury pronounced upon the case submitted to him—is not recorded.

Lamartine has contracted, it is stated, to write 20 volumes of romance for £20,000.

FACTS FOR SOCIAL REFORMERS.

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.

(Continued.)

The correspondent next details, in several letters, the result of his investigations among the migratory and vagrant classes of the population—the hawkers of fish, fruit, &c., in the streets; and the beggars, vagabonds, and prostitutes who crowd the Asylums for the Destitute, Houses of Refuge, Casual Relief Wards, and low lodging houses, of the metropolis. His statements are of the most painful interest, but they belong rather to the romance than to the economics of the subject. We therefore give only the results of his inquiries. We give first an important table—the average of 17 years' returns of the occupations of the persons admitted into the Asylum for the Houseless Poor:—

Factory employment	1 in every	3 individuals.
Hawkers	"	4 "
Labourers, agricultural	"	12 "
Seamen	"	13 "
Charwomen and washerwomen	"	13 "
Labourers, general	"	17 "
Wadding-makers	"	35 "
Smiths and ironfounders	"	36 "
Weavers	"	38 "
Brickmakers	"	39 "
Ropemakers	"	41 "
Braziers	"	55 "
Paper makers and stainers	"	58 "
Skin-dressers	"	58 "
Basket-makers	"	62 "
Bricklayers, plasterers, and slaters	"	62 "
Gardeners	"	67 "
File-cutters	"	70 "
Sawyers	"	78 "
Turners	"	74 "
Wire-workers	"	75 "
Cutters	"	77 "
Harness-makers and saddlers	"	80 "
Stonemasons	"	88 "
Dyers	"	94 "
Chimney-sweeps	"	97 "
Errand-boys	"	99 "
Porters	"	99 "
Fainters, plumbers, and glaziers	"	119 "
Cabinet-makers and upholsterers	"	128 "
Shoemakers	"	130 "
Printers and compositors	"	142 "
Brushmakers	"	145 "
Carpenters, joiners, and wheelwrights	"	150 "
Bakers	"	167 "
Brassfounders	"	177 "
Tailors	"	177 "
Combmakers	"	178 "
Coopers	"	178 "
Surveyors	"	198 "
Felmongers	"	203 "
Glasscutters	"	229 "
Bedstead-makers	"	235 "
Average (for all London)	"	219 "
Butchers	"	248 "
Bookbinders	"	255 "
Mendicants	"	256 "
Engineers	"	265 "
Miners	"	267 "
Lacemakers	"	273 "
Poulterers	"	273 "
Furriers	"	274 "
Straw-bonnet-makers	"	277 "
Trimming and button makers	"	277 "
Ostlers and grooms	"	286 "
Drovers	"	297 "
Hairdressers	"	329 "
Pipemakers	"	340 "
Clerks and shopmen	"	346 "
Hatters	"	350 "
Tiemen	"	354 "
Tallow-chandlers	"	364 "
Servants	"	377 "
Corkcutters	"	380 "
Jewellers and watchmakers	"	411 "
Umbrellamakers	"	415 "
Sailmakers	"	455 "
Carvers and gilders	"	500 "
Gunsmiths	"	554 "
Trunkmakers	"	569 "
Chairmakers	"	586 "
Fishmongers	"	643 "
Tanners	"	643 "
Musicians	"	730 "
Leather-dressers and curriers	"	802 "
Coachmakers	"	989 "
Engravers	"	1,133 "
Shipwrights	"	1,358 "
Artists	"	1,374 "
Drapers	"	2,047 "
Milliners and dressmakers	"	10,190 "

The next table given shows the ages of the applicants at the central asylum, Whitecross-street, in 1849; from which it appears that while there were no less than 216 infants under one year, 475 under ten years, the numbers rose rapidly up to the age of 30, from which they declined, very few being above 50. We give 20 years of the table:—

10 years	108	21 years	335
11 "	104	22 "	385
12 "	107	23 "	295
13 "	177	24 "	399
14 "	157	25 "	122
15 "	268	26 "	238
16 "	259	27 "	219
17 "	368	28 "	238
18 "	380	29 "	84
19 "	336	30 "	294
20 "	206		

As to the localities furnishing these wretched hordes, Ireland, for the last fourteen years, has, upon an average, annually supplied the asylum for the houseless poor in the metropolis with 2,465 applicants for shelter, which is four times the number that have come from any other part. The large increase of Irish immigrants seems to have been mainly owing to the potato disease in that country; for it appears that in the year 1846 only 772 Irish applied for shelter at the Asylum for the Houseless Poor, whilst in 1847 the number increased to as many as 7,576, and in 1848 to no less than 10,756. Last year the number of Irish, however, fell to 5,068. The next of the localities contributing the largest number of houseless poor is Middlesex, which has furnished 643 every year. Then comes Kent, giving 491; Lancashire, 469; London, 374; Essex, 342; Somersethshire, 311; Scotland, 309; Hampshire, 273; Berkshire, 270, &c. The county that has supplied the least is Rutlandshire, the number on an average being only seven annually. The next of the counties contributing the smallest number of houseless poor, is Westmoreland, which has furnished 10 annually; then

comes Sussex, yielding 15; Hertfordshire, 19; Huntingdon, 20; and so on.

If we take the number of inhabitants in each county into consideration, we shall find that Middlesex gives the greatest amount of applicants, there being from that county annually 1 individual in every 477 of its population. The next is Berkshire, which contributes 1 in every 595; then comes Cumberland, with 1 in every 606; then Kent, yielding 1 in every 1,116, &c. The counties from which the smallest amount proceeds are—first, Surrey, which contributes only 1 in every 21,160; then Sussex, giving 1 in every 19,002; Yorkshire, 1 in every 8,456; Hertfordshire, 1 in every 8,021, and so on. But if we take an average of the different divisions, we shall find that the South-midland and East Agricultural furnishes 1 in 1,729, which is nearly four times as many as the manufacturing and mining districts. The Metropolitan district furnishes the least of all, being only 1 in every 8,882 of its population. From this it would appear that where a district depends exclusively upon agriculture for the employment and support of its people, distress is most prevalent; but where mining and manufacturing are introduced, the condition of the inhabitants is improved.

The conclusions of the correspondent, from this large induction of facts, are as follows:—

The causes and encouragements of vagrancy are two-fold—direct and indirect. The roving disposition to which vagrancy is *directly* ascribable, proceeds partly from a certain physical conformation or temperament, but mainly from a non-inculcation of industrial habits and moral purposes in youth. The causes from which the vagabondism of the young *indirectly* proceeds are:—

1. The neglect or tyranny of parents or masters. (This appears to be a most prolific source.)

2. Bad companions.

3. Bad books, which act like the bad companions in depraving the taste, and teaching the youth to consider that approvable which to all rightly-constituted minds is morally loathsome.

4. Bad amusements (as penny theatres) where the scenes and characters described in the bad books are represented in a still more attractive form.

5. Bad institutions—as, for instance, the different refuges scattered throughout the country, and which, enabling persons to live without labour, are the means of attracting large numbers of the most idle and dissolute classes to the several cities where the charities are dispensed. Captain Carroll, C.B., R.N., chief of the police, speaking of the Refuges for the Destitute in Bath, and of a kindred institution which distributes bread and soup, says, "I consider those institutions an abomination to this city for vagrants." At Liverpool, Mr. Henry Simpson said of a Night Asylum, supported by voluntary contributions, and established for several years in this town—"This charity was used by quite a different class of persons from those for whom it was designed. A vast number of abandoned characters, known thieves and prostitutes, found nightly shelter there." "The chief inducement to vagrancy in the town," says another report, speaking of a certain part of the North Riding of York, "is the relief given by mistaken but benevolent individuals, more particularly by the poorer class. Instances have occurred where the names of such benevolent persons have been found in the possession of vagrants, obtained, no doubt, from their fellow-travellers."

6. Vagrancy is largely due to, and, indeed, chiefly maintained by, the low lodging-houses. Prisons, treadmills, penal settlements, gallows—all are vain and impotent as punishments—and Ragged Schools and City missions are of no avail as preventives of crime—so long as these wretched dens of infamy, brutality, and vice, continue their daily and nightly work of demoralization. If we would check the further spread of our criminals—and within the last four years they have increased from 24,000 to 30,000—we must apply ourselves to the better regulation and conduct of these places. At present they are not only the preparatory schools but the finishing academies for profligacy and crime.

Returning to the artizans of the metropolis, the boot and shoemakers, as first in numerical importance, received the attention of the correspondent. There were, in 1841, 28,574 individuals engaged in this occupation, of whom 26,478 were workpeople, and of those 3,717 females. Their numbers appear to be on the increase far above their due proportion, and their wages consequently on the decline. The amount of their earnings could not be positively ascertained, from the different branches of the trade, and the number of irregular workmen. One of the most intelligent and industrious of the body—superior thoughtfulness and information being their general characteristic—states that he could make, at present prices, 27s. a week, if he could get sufficient work; but then, materials and light would cost 2s. 6d., and he would have to be on his seat fourteen hours a day. From trade returns and personal knowledge, he calculated the average earnings of the body at 13s. 6d. a week. It was about 35s. thirty years since. Wages fell 15 per cent. in 1842, when Sir Robert Peel's tariff took the duty off French boots and shoes, and the quantity of work attainable was still more affected; but the Northampton shoemakers, by their factory system, were beating the French out of the market. We give the man's reasoning in his own words, as a fair specimen of the social and mental condition of the better class of operatives:—

But a greater evil than all is the competition among

the masters; almost every one, excepting the most respectable of them, is trying to force a trade by underselling the others. This, of course, masters may do in two ways—either by the reduction of their own profits, or by cutting down the wages of the working-men. The cheap men may, perhaps, take a little off *their* profits, but, in general, they undersell their neighbours by means of taking as much as they can off *our* wages. These are always the first thing they attack. This competition among the masters is one of the chief causes of the competition among the working-men. A workman being paid less for his work is obliged to do more, in order to get a living at his trade. Let us say that he does half as much again as he used to do—then doesn't it stand to reason that there must be less work left for the others to do; and hence, on a reduction of wages, a number must

be thrown out of employ? Again, in order to gain a competency at the low-price work, an operative employs his wife, and, in many cases, two or three lads, to help him, and then he finds that he can produce a greater quantity at a less price than other workmen. He then, in order to keep all the boys in full employ, offers to the employers to do their work at a less price than the usual wages. So that you see the masters compete and the men compete, and between them the trade is being ruined as fast as it can. Yes, it ultimately must come to that. I often lie awake and think of the evils in our trade, but can't see how it's to be altered.

I tell you what it is, sir, we shall shortly have the same system in London as in France and Northampton, unless something is done to stop it. A man's own children will soon be the means of driving him from the market altogether, or compelling him to come down to their rate of wages; and if we are forced to put our children to work directly they are able, they cannot receive any education whatever, and then their minds and bodies will be both stunted. Of course, that must have a demoralizing effect upon the next generation. For my own part, as the trade is going down every day, I could not think of bringing up my boys to it, considering their future welfare—and what else I am to do with them, I can't say. My earnings are so small now and my income so much reduced, that I shouldn't have the means to apprentice them to any other trade. In the years '45, '46, and '47, I was in a much better condition than I am now. Then I was able to take my periodicals in. I used to have near a shilling's worth of them every week, sir. I took in *Chambers's Journal*. I took in Knight's "Cyclopaedia," and others of the same kind. I used to have my weekly newspaper, too. But since '48 I have not had the most of them, and I now take in none at all—I can't afford it. In '45 and '46, I was able to live better than I do now. The cheap provisions have done me no good whatever. But the intention we have is to go into a club this winter, and raise funds to emigrate to America, unless the trade improves greatly, which we see no prospect of. I don't see myself how it is to be altered. I, like thousands of others of the working men, have been struggling hard for these many years, and yet I get no forwarder. Last year I went back in my rent £10, and how I am to fetch it up I can't say. I suppose I must go to the loan-office, and pay through the nose for the money. I should be the happiest mortal alive, and be contented, if I could be certain of a fair quantity of employment and a fair rate of wages for it, but it's vexatious in the extreme to an industriously inclined working man to go to seek work and be unable to get it.

Further inquiries among the trade fully corroborated this statement. Among the slop-hands of the business, the same wretchedness was found as among the slopworkers of other trades.

Here we must conclude, for the present, our abstract of "Labour and the Poor" in the metropolitan districts; commanding to the earnest consideration of our readers the facts we have already given—and not least, such statements as that last quoted.

HEARING APPARATUS FOR CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

—The Gutta Percha Company have brought into operation a very interesting and perfectly unique invention, well adapted to assist persons whose hearing is defective. Gutta Percha is proved to be a most excellent conductor of sound, and the "apparatus" in question is far superior to any ear-trumpet or acoustic instrument hitherto in use. Wherever it is in use it affords the most complete satisfaction, and has elicited the highest testimonials to its value from persons who are best able to form an opinion; some of them having previously not heard a sermon for years, others but imperfectly, with little comfort or advantage, from the great stretch of attention requisite to distinguish and connect the sounds articulated. If it be a Christian duty to copy the sympathizing spirit of Him who "is touched with the feeling of our infirmities," the propriety of making an effort to secure such a help for those who need it will be self-evident. It is a new medium for making the appointed ordinance of preaching tell upon "every creature." To many Christians the thought may never have occurred that while they listen with uninterrupted pleasure to the glad tidings published from the pulpit, there are very many who, from age or disease having in various degrees affected their oral powers, claim commiseration, and need just the kind of assistance this "apparatus" furnishes. We refer, especially, to the poor—others can afford to have the advantage proposed prepared for them at their own expense—but "the poor," ever kept in view by "the Apostle and High Priest of our profession" during his sojourn and ministry on earth,—for these we plead, and hope the time is not far distant when, by the generosity of those able to contribute for so commendable an object, funds will be supplied in every congregation to fit up the pulpit according to the plan already so successfully in operation in some places of worship. The plan looks very simple:—It consists of a funnel-shaped sheet of gutta percha fixed below the speaker, from which a main-pipe descends inside the pulpit; to this tubes can be attached and conveyed to any part of the building; an ear-piece terminates each. No effort is required either on the part of speaker or hearer; the softest whisper travels with telegraphic speed, and to any distance the tube may be constructed to reach.

DESTRUCTION OF BISHOP'S-ROCK LIGHTHOUSE, OFF SCILLY.—Amongst the various disasters and loss of property which occurred in the terrific gale of Tuesday, the 5th instant, we have to record a no less serious occurrence than the total destruction of Bishop's-Rock Lighthouse, off Scilly, the erection of which was rapidly approaching completion. It would have been upwards of 120 feet high, twenty feet higher than the far-famed Eddystone.—*Penzance Gazette*.

The great tubular bridge over the Menai will be opened to the public for traffic about the end of March.

THE REFORM MOVEMENT.

GREAT MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

A great meeting was held at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday evening, to receive Sir Joshua Walmsley, M.P., George Thompson, Esq., M.P., and Messrs. E. Miall, H. Vincent, and Alexander Mackay, as a deputation from the National Reform Association. From 6,000 to 7,000 persons were present in the body of the hall, the galleries also being comfortably filled, while about 400 persons were seated upon the platform. Very few of the "League" party attended, but, nevertheless, the attendance was influential as well as numerous. Mr. Alderman HARVEY occupied the chair, and in a brief address, pointing out the importance of self-reform as a means to political reform, introduced Sir J. WALMSLEY.—Already, with limited means, had this question been submitted to not fewer than 120 public meetings, many of them convened in the capital cities and towns of England and Scotland, the verdict, without a solitary exception, having been unanimous in its favour; and they were now in Manchester to ask the verdict of its people, in order that they might add it to the many already recorded, and so strengthen their future efforts by the knowledge that the inhabitants of that great seat of commerce and manufactures were not a whit behind others of their fellow-countrymen in demanding a full, free, and fair representation of the people [cheers].

Mr. GEORGE THOMPSON then addressed the meeting, and was very warmly received.

Mr. JOHN WHYATT moved, and Mr. ROBT. LONGDEN seconded:—

That a change in the representative system, to at least the extent proposed by the National Reform Association, is imperatively required, in justice to the intelligent population, for the United Kingdom; and as the only effectual means for obtaining a redress of the numerous grievances universally complained of, this meeting approves of the objects of the National Reform Association, and pledges itself to support the same by contributions to its funds, and every other means in its power.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. EDWARD MIALL next addressed the assembly. This was the first time, he said, that it had been his pleasure to enter the Free-trade Hall for the purpose of popular agitation. He had been engaged elsewhere, and in agitation for the accomplishment of objects having a similar kinship with free trade. He held that free trade in food was a principle which, fairly carried out, would lead on to free trade in all things. He came there, however, a little out of his ordinary beat, simply to express, before a Manchester audience, the earnest desire which he cherished that men of all classes, who had arrived at the age of reason, and who were able to exercise it, should have guaranteed to them, by the constitution of the realm, those political rights which he thought were their due. After an address of some length, he appealed to the people of Manchester for their aid:—

We want your aid, not for ourselves—most of us have votes, and possess as much political power as any alteration of the general system of the franchise could give to us—but we call upon your aid for justice, for truth, for honour, for morality. We believe that the people have a right to what we claim for them. We believe that they have given to us good evidence that when they get what we claim for them, they will use it wisely and discreetly [cheers]. We believe that in their prosperity we shall share [renewed cheers]. We believe that, in granting to them justice, we must expand and cherish our own affections, our own principles, and largeness of soul; so that our character will be improved in the very exertions we are making to convey benefit to them. On this ground, and on many others which might be urged, I earnestly invoke your aid, men of Manchester—your right earnest, unmistakeable co-operation in this movement [cheers]; and let me say, you will have your own reward—first, in the peace which will prevail in the bosom of your own neighbourhood; secondly, in the accomplishment of all those financial changes which you desire to effect by the instrumentality of Parliament; and, finally, I believe, by the diffusion of those principles of right and truth through the hearts of the people in this country, that will be a good and sure foundation for all the moralities of life, and for all the susceptibilities of religion [loud cheers].

Mr. HENRY VINCENT then addressed the meeting with great effect, and sat down amidst loud and prolonged applause.

Mr. W. P. ROBERTS, on being called upon to move a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had addressed the meeting, expressed his pleasure at witnessing their advent to the principles which he himself, and the body of Chartists, had so long advocated. Scores of men were now in gaol for uttering sentiments every whit as seditious as those which had been freely expressed that night [cheers]. It was owing to the Chartists, he believed, that there was at this moment a faith to fight for. The gentlemen behind him might not respond to this sentiment: the men in front did [cheers].

Mr. MIALL said, that thanks had been moved to them in consequence of the utterance of sentiments strictly in harmony with the sentiments of the Chartist body; and congratulations had been offered them by Mr. Roberts that they had at length learnt the measure of wisdom which was embodied in that document. He (Mr. Miall) thought that all things ought to be harmonious between the platform and the people; and he could only say for himself, that he had imbibed and advocated all the principles of the People's Charter before that Charter was known [cheers]. He could say, also, for his colleagues there, that all of them had consistently, and with great sacrifice to themselves, advocated those principles when they were not popular. It was not now, as Mr. Roberts well knew, for the first time that they stood upon a platform advocating these principles [cheers]; and he might say that, but for the

difference flung amongst the middle and working classes by the determined retention of a name [renewed cheers], there would have been that union between the two bodies six years ago which was proposed and accomplished now.

Mr. ROBERTS said he had been misunderstood, and to prove that it could not have been his intention to utter any sentiment of the kind, he might say that the speech to which he had referred was delivered by his friend Mr. Henry Vincent, who had been his friend ever since; while during the whole course of the Chartist and other agitations, there was no man he had esteemed more heartily than he had Mr. George Thompson, since he first heard him advocating the cause of anti-slavery at Bath; and with regard to Mr. Miall, there was no person whom he had heard more consistently advocate the principles of universal suffrage, from the first hour he had heard him until now. He trusted, therefore, that Mr. Miall would take these explanations.

Mr. G. THOMPSON also vindicated his claim to be considered an old reformer. It was no advent of his on that platform [cheers]. He was not ashamed to come there. His antecedents would bear examination; and as he had said before, he would say again, that no Chartist in this realm ever maintained, through evil and through good report, the principles which the Chartists now held, with greater integrity or greater fearlessness, than he had done [loud cheers]. But he had ever preached them in the language of temperance, and by a reference to pure, holy, and peaceful sanctions [hear, and cheers]. He had ever sought to promulgate them by means that were unexceptionable; and as he believed the cause was a holy one, he never committed the crime of staining it by any unholy sentiment.

The motion was then put and carried, and the proceedings terminated.

ROCHDALE.—On Thursday night, Sir Joshua Walmsley, George Thompson, Esq., Henry Vincent, Esq., and Mr. Mackay, addressed a large body of electors and non-electors, in the Public Hall, Baillie-street, Rochdale. Mr. J. Tweedale, chief constable, occupied the chair. About 1,500 persons were present, and at the close, a large number of members were enrolled.

IN NORFOLK the Reform movement is actively prosecuted. Messrs. Tillett and M'Entee, have, within the last week, held meetings at Holt, South Creak, and Yarmouth. In the last place, the meeting was highly successful. At Holt, a systematic opposition had been organized, and, although the riotously-disposed found only a small minority, they succeeded in preventing Mr. Tillett from being heard, and in breaking up the meeting.

TRADE AND NAVIGATION.—By the accounts relating to trade and navigation published on Friday, it is shown that the total gross receipts of Customs' duties during the past year amounted to £22,350,933, having been in 1848 £22,663,607. Of this the amount for duties inwards was £22,347,700 in 1849, and in 1848 £22,659,214; that for duties outwards £3,233 in 1849, and £4,393 in 1848. After deducting the payments made for bounties, drawback, allowances, &c., which in 1849 amounted to £185,998, and to £156,333 in 1848, the net receipt of Customs' duties appears to have been for last year £22,194,600, and for the year preceding £22,477,609. The total number of vessels employed in the foreign trade entered inwards in 1848 was 27,786, amounting in tonnage to 5,579,461; in 1849 the number was 30,870, and their tonnage 6,071,269. The number of vessels employed in the foreign trade cleared outwards in 1848 was 24,893, the total tonnage of which was 5,051,237; the number in 1849 was 27,115, giving a tonnage of 5,429,908. The total number of vessels employed in the foreign trade entered inwards in 1848, belonging to the United Kingdom and its dependencies, was 18,149, tonnage 4,020,415; in 1849 it was 20,292, tonnage 4,390,375. The number of British vessels engaged in foreign trade cleared outwards was in 1848 15,783, tonnage 3,553,777; and in 1849 it was 17,169, tonnage 3,762,182. The total number of vessels employed in the coasting trade entered inwards was, in 1848, 140,441, tonnage 12,528,872; in 1849 it was 133,275, tonnage 11,967,473. The number of these employed in the intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland was, in 1848, 9,109, tonnage 1,470,309; and in 1849, 8,607, tonnage 1,478,059. The total number of vessels engaged in the coasting trade cleared outwards was, in 1848, 155,745, tonnage 13,315,349; and in 1849 it was 149,166, tonnage 12,915,584. The number of these engaged in the trade between Great Britain and Ireland was, in 1848, 18,941, tonnage 2,153,054; and in 1849, 18,000, tonnage 2,159,954.

The *Morning Herald* notices, that in Wednesday's debate Sir Robert Peel, instead of speaking from the floor of the House—the position always occupied by the leaders, even of sections of the House of Commons, addressed the Speaker from the second row of benches.

EXPLOSION AND LOSS OF LIFE AT NORRIS CASTLE, ISLE OF WIGHT.—On Thursday afternoon, about three o'clock, a deplorable accident occurred at Norris Castle, occupied by R. Bell, Esq. It appears that Mr. Bell, who is a member of two or three yacht clubs, has at present no yacht employed, and his spare stores, including gunpowder, plate, &c., have been for some time deposited in some stabling buildings, situated about 300 yards from the Castle. Owing to some cause, at present unexplained, the ammunition exploded on Thursday with terrific effect, completely destroying the building and its contents, and unfortunately killing a man and a boy, and wounding very severely two others.

THE REV. JAMES SHORE.—The *Western Times* says:—"Mr. Shore is still pursuing his valuable labours at Bridgetown Chapel, with renovated health. His Grace of Somerset still continues to support the Protestant principles on which Bridgetown Chapel was opened; and, although enfeebled by age and indisposition, the excellent nobleman has shown the kindest solicitude for his protégé and the flock committed to his pastoral care."

THE ADVERTISEMENT DUTY.—Among the Parliamentary papers issued during the last session was one showing the number of advertisements on which duty was paid in each year from 1833 to the end of 1840. This is the last return, and as the subject is to be brought before the House of Commons by Mr. Ewart on Thursday, the information contained in the return is of some value. In England the number of advertisements in 1826, was 775,356, and the duty (3s. 6d. each) was £135,687 3s.; in 1827, the number was 765,693, and the duty £133,978 15s. 6d.; in 1828, the number was 779,250, and the duty £136,368 15s.; in 1829, the number was 777,445, and the duty £136,052 17s. 6d.; in 1830, the number was 788,091, and the duty £137,915 18s. 6d.; in 1831, the number was 787,649, and the duty £137,838 11s. 6d.; in 1832, the number was 783,557, and the duty £137,122 9s. 6d. The duty was reduced to 1s. 6d. from the 5th of July, 1833. In 1834, the number was 977,441, and the duty £73,308 1s. 6d.; in 1835, the number was 1,038,041, and the duty £77,853 1s. 6d.; in 1836, the number was 1,173,136, and the duty £87,985 4s.; in 1837, the number was 1,206,680, and the duty £90,501; in 1838, the number was 1,315,581, and the duty £98,668 11s. 6d.; and in 1839, the number was 1,351,421, and the duty £101,356 11s. 6d.; and in 1840, the number was 1,425,387, and the duty £106,904 0s. 6d.

THE "SWATING" SYSTEM.—A deputation of the Tailors' Trade Protection Society waited last Saturday evening on Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P., and Sir Benjamin Hall, Bart., M.P., in the Marylebone Court-house, for the purpose of inducing his lordship and his honourable colleague to support a petition to the House of Commons, praying the interference of the Legislature, to put down, by a legislative enactment, the present "sweating" system. His lordship and Sir Benjamin Hall promised to support the petition; but the former doubted whether the Government would pass a law, compelling masters to give in-door work, and suggested an application to the Board of Health. The grievances of the "sweating" system were most forcibly pointed out by Mr. William Dyke, Mr. Essary, and Mr. Pryor, which they stated brought poverty upon the industrious workman, while the jobbers, who undertook to complete the work at low prices, ground down the former to the lowest possible wages—wages so inferior, that, with constant toil, they were scarcely able to eke out an existence. It was stated that one jobber alone realized £3,000 a-year, and kept his carriage.

HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS.—A selection from the Oratorios of "Daniel's Prediction," composed by the late C. E. Horn, just before his departure for America, was performed for the benefit of Mrs. Sewell and Miss Horn, on Tuesday evening, the 12th inst., to a numerous auditory. The orchestra consisted of the élite of the profession, conducted by W. Sterndale Bennett, and led by Mr. H. Blagrove; Mr. T. Jolley presiding at the organ. The second part of the concert, included the well-known and popular songs, duets, and trios, and the programme was entirely made up of the compositions of this favourite composer. We never remember a performance being listened to with more delight; and although some of the would-be critics have pronounced the oratorio to be deficient in the characteristics of this style of writing, and wanting in depth and grandeur, they have been obliged to acknowledge the beauties of the instrumentation; and the vocalists can testify to the hearty and simultaneous applause which followed the delivery of "For the Home of our Fathers," by Miss Wells; the charming duet by the Misses Williams, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem;" and the thrilling effect produced by the choruses, "Hail! Mighty King," and "Bel boweth down." The miscellaneous part concluded at a late hour, without any apparent diminution of attention; and we doubt not that the wishes of the artistes, who all gave their services gratuitously, as well as those who supported the performance, will have accomplished the expectations of the *beneficiare*, whilst a tribute has been paid to the memory of departed talent.

A NEW BRIDGE FOR WESTMINSTER.—It is stated that it has been determined to take down the present bridge at Westminster, and that a new one is to be erected some four hundred yards further from the Houses of Parliament, in order to heighten the effect of those elaborate specimens of British architecture. The new structure is to be low and straight, supported by gothic arches. Plans for the erection of first-class detached, or semi-detached houses, forming a line of streets up to Buckingham-palace, have, it is also said, been approved of.

MUNIFICENT FOUNDATION OF A RAGGED SCHOOL.—Some short time back the friends of a ragged school, who had fitted up one of the arches of the South Western Railway, near Lambeth-walk, as a place of instruction for poor ragged children, applied to Mr. Beaufoy, the eminent distiller, of South Lambeth, to subscribe towards a fund to erect a suitable edifice. Mr. Beaufoy so far complied with their request that, at his sole expense, he has erected, in Doughty-street, Lambeth, at a cost of upwards of £3,000, a magnificent building, covering an area of 1,230 square yards, calculated to afford ample room for the instruction of 1,000 children.

BOAT DRIFTED OUT TO SEA.—On Saturday morning, a man named W. M'Gammon (who was employed in fitting up the Martello Tower for the reception of a company of soldiers), endeavoured to take a boat, in which was his wife, from the east side of the pier into the harbour, Leith. Owing, however, to the strong wind which prevailed, he was unable to accomplish his purpose, and the boat drifted down the Frith, exposing the two unfortunate beings to the inclemency of the weather, and the danger of their lives, during the whole night. Fortunately, they were observed in Aberlady next morning by some pilots, who picked them up, by which time they were in an exhausted state.—*Scotsman.*

A SNUG BIRTH IN THE CHURCH.—The following tempting offer, addressed to clergymen of the Established Church, appears in the form of an advertisement in the columns of a contemporary:—"Next presentation to a sinecure provincial rectory, producing £262 per annum, to be sold. Present incumbent aged 72. No pauper population, no poor's rates, no church, no glebe, no duty. For terms, apply," &c.

LONDON SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—Great curiosity was excited by the announcement that "Deborah" would be performed at Exeter Hall, on Monday, and the very crowded attendance was a marked indication of the interest felt in the production of one of Handel's least-known oratorios. "Deborah" has not been performed since 1844, when it was brought out successfully under the auspices of Mr. Surman; but, from the introduction of new works, all of which went to the hall for representation, no opportunity has presented itself till now for the resuscitation of this really valuable composition. It abounds with many fine songs, among which may be enumerated the airs, "How lovely is the blooming fair," "Tears such as tender fathers shed," and "In the battle fame pursuing." The choruses as a whole may be considered second only to those of "Israel in Egypt;" the opening chorus, "Immortal Lord of earth and skies," and "See the proud chief," are two of the sublimest choruses Handel ever wrote, and would be sufficient alone to stamp him as the greatest choral writer that ever lived. The chorus of the Priests of Baal, with the novel accompaniment, proves that the great master wrote for all ages. The principal vocal performers on Monday were Miss Birch, Miss Kenneth, Miss Holroyd, Mr. Lawler, Mr. Seguin, and Mr. Genge. Miss Kenneth took the part of Barak, which, although intended for a tenor voice, she discharged with much ease, taste, and satisfaction. The only encore during the evening was the beautiful bass song, "Tears such as tender fathers shed," which was given by Mr. Lawler with great pathos. The oratorio has, we think, been considerably improved by the omission of many parts, which have reduced it to moderate dimensions. We hope to hear of its repetition, and are glad to see this popular society vindicating its claim to public support, by bringing to light musical treasures which might otherwise remain unknown and unappreciated.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, Feb. 20, Two o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Agricultural distress, for relief of, 8 [one from the county of Devon, with 15,000 signatures].
County Rates, &c., Bill, in favour of, 7.
Education (Ireland), for alteration of present system, 4.
Marriage Bill, against, 1.
Colonial Penny Postage, for, 1.
Post-office, for abolition of Sunday-labour in, 88.
Slave Trade, for continuance of blockade system, 1.
Sunday Trading (Metropolis), for abolition of, 1.
Tea, for reduction of duty on, 1.
Water (Metropolitan districts), for improving the supply of, 2.

BILLS PRESENTED AND READ A FIRST TIME.

Railway Assurance Company Bill.
Affirmation Bill.
Manchester Rectory Bill.

NOTICE OF MOTION.—Sir De Lacy Evans, on Tuesday next, to move for leave to bring in a bill extending the franchise to all persons paying a direct tax to the Crown, or being rated to the amount of £5 annually for the relief of the poor.—POSTPONEMENTS: Mr. Heywood, on University Reform, till after Easter; Lord John Russell, for the better management of the Woods and Forests, to February 22; Mr. Drummond, on Taxation, to March 5; Mr. Trelawny, on Church-rates, to March 5; Mr. Cayley, on Repeal of the Malt Tax, to the same date.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

In the House of Lords, last night, the Railway Abandonment Bill was read a second time, and referred to a select committee.

The Earl of GLENGALL introduced a bill for facilitating the transfer of land in Ireland, which was read a first time.

Their lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE POOR-RATE AND THE AGRICULTURAL INTEREST.—After an intimation by Lord J. RUSSELL (in answer to Mr. Henley) that there was no intention of altering the Income-tax,

Mr. DISRAELI, in pursuance of his notice, moved for a Committee of the whole House, to consider such a revision of the poor-laws as might mitigate the distress of the agricultural interest. He represented the condition of that interest as even darker than when Parliament, at its meeting, refused to recognise agricultural distress. He stated the

abiding belief on his side of the House that such distress had been caused by recent legislation, and that the best remedy for it would be the re-imposition of protection (belief which, in time, he said, the House would share); but, he added, it was not well that the House should become a mere debating society; and after the division on the Address, it was clear that a large majority in both Houses would not, at present, disturb the legislation in question. It was, therefore, necessary to look at the next best remedy, the adaptation of the system of taxation to the altered circumstances of the agriculturist. The latter demanded two things—equality with his fellow-subject, and, in his own market, equality with the foreigner. From the time that the Free-traders had resolved that the soil of England should compete unassisted with all the other soils in the world, they had lost all right to go into questions of rent and profits, as between owners and occupiers, although it used to be believed in the House, and it was still so in the country, that, as all our institutions spring from the land, a statesman ought to take care of the territorial population. Certain parties considered land as merely a "raw material," possessing no political importance; but these parties had never dared to answer the question, why it should not receive the protection extended to other raw material. He stated that the class whom he now sought to uphold contained 250,000 landowners, who averaged but £240 a year, and who yet were taunted as "aristocrats." He then proceeded to consider the poor-law, which he said was either a matter of police or a social duty, and in neither case ought to be charged, as it was, upon one kind of property only, the vast majority of the property of the country not fulfilling its duty in either respect. Denying that any of the land in Ireland or Scotland, and much of the land in England, was inherited or acquired subject to poor-rate, and introducing a personal allusion to Lord John Russell, as the son of a great house which had certainly not so inherited, and denying also that such subjection, if it existed, were just, he reminded the House that land, if so charged, had also been under other and concurrent laws, which gave it a countervailing value. He then stated the substance of the resolutions he proposed to submit in committee. His proposals were, to remit a large mass of the charges that pauperism threw upon land. A million and a half, of what are usually called the "Establishment charges," he would transfer to the Consolidated Fund. The expenses of executing the Registration Act, the preparation of the jury and burgess lists, the Sanitary and Vaccination Acts, and many other charges, all of which now unjustly fell upon land, he should treat in the same way, and should thus relieve the suffering interest to the extent of £700,000 a-year; to which he should add the further relief of throwing all the "casual poor" of the country upon its general income. An overflowing Exchequer forbade its Chancellor to plead against this proposal in *formā pauperis*, and he hoped that Ministers would not be deterred from an act of justice by the fear of giving a triumph to their political adversaries. Asserting his belief in the desire of the House to do justice, he concluded (amidst the loudest Opposition cheers) a speech of nearly two hours by exhorting Parliament so to act that our children might not despair of the institutions of the country.

Sir George Grey declared that the agriculturists were indebted to Mr. Disraeli for thus demolishing the mischievous delusion of a hope of return to protection. But he had given little proof of the distress he had complained of, and had, instead, assumed its existence. He (Sir G. Grey) believed the assumption of increased agricultural distress to be gratuitous, for the ordinary tests of crime and pauperism showed it to have actually diminished. If wages had been reduced to a level below that compensated for by the cheapness of food, injustice had been done to the labourer by the landowner. He thought a judicious revision of the law of settlement would be a boon to the agriculturists, and hoped that Government would be able to introduce an early measure upon that subject. But Mr. Disraeli (just as he did last year) confounded "real property" with the "landed interest." Sir George next combated Mr. Disraeli's theory as to the original non-existence of the charges upon the land, and read Lord Mansfield's celebrated *dictum* upon the point. He then showed that the real burdens upon land were diminishing, year by year, and that the proportion which land bore to other real and rateable property was becoming equally advantageous, for while in 1826 land bore 69 per cent., and other property 31 per cent. of such charges, the most recent return showed the land per centage to be now 46, and that of other property 55. He defied Mr. Disraeli to show that land had ever enjoyed such protection as would have rendered an exclusive burden upon it a just impost. Proceeding to the proposals of Mr. Disraeli, he corrected his statistics, stated the establishment charges at £776,000, and said that a transfer of such a charge to the Exchequer, divested of interested local check, would occasion the grossest extravagance. He would not now anticipate what the Chancellor of the Exchequer might do towards transferring some of the burdens complained of, but should resist the "large" plan of Mr. Disraeli. As to the casual poor, the local check was invaluable, and could not be given up without the utmost injury. He objected to tampering by anticipation with a possible surplus in the Exchequer. But he could not see what important advantage the plan would afford to the landed interest, for, in the first place, it would only have 46 per cent. of the relief; next, it would lose its share in the reduction of tax-

ation consequent upon the surplus being otherwise applied; and, thirdly, it would have to bear the new taxes which, were the plan adopted, would become necessary. After advertizing to the injustice of the plan as regarded other classes, Sir George read a portion of a published speech of Mr. Disraeli's, in which "an *ad valorem* duty upon *all* articles of foreign import" was announced as the next of the series of measures of which these resolutions were the first, and, demanding whether this was really to follow upon the motion of that night, he concluded by urging increased practical exertion upon the agriculturists and by opposing the motion.

Mr. CHARTERIS supported the motion, insisting upon the exclusive burdens falling upon the land, which entitled the agricultural classes to relief in some form.

Mr. ANDERSON, who had given notice of an amendment to the motion, described the injurious effects of the Corn-laws and of the system of protection.

Mr. NEYMER supported the motion, contending that this was essentially a farmer's question; that a change had taken place in public opinion, and that Parliament would be constrained to retrace its steps.

Mr. RICE and Mr. HOBHOUSE opposed, and Sir J. TYRELL supported, the motion.

Lord JOHN MANNERS contended, that the inferences drawn by Sir George Grey from the state of crime and pauperism in the agricultural districts were fallacious; and the distress there being incontrovertible, here was a practical measure, against which not a single valid argument had been offered—which carried out the views avowed by Sir Robert Peel in 1845—and would mitigate the great and grievous distress which oppressed the agricultural interest.

Mr. BRIGHT said, the proposition of Mr. Disraeli was of a more practical character than usual; still, the House and the country would discover, that the grounds upon which he had based it were untenable. The proposition was founded upon the prevalence of agricultural distress, and was intended as a compensation for the loss of the corn-laws. He (Mr. Bright) did not dispute the fact of agricultural distress, although Mr. Disraeli had stated no case in which the fee of the land was depreciated, or rent had been permanently lowered. Unless the proposition could stand by itself, without connexion with protection, it was inadmissible; it was, he admitted, practical and simple, but the result would be, that the occupiers of the soil would add so much to the rental of the proprietors as was subtracted from their rates. The time, however, was gone by for Parliament to transfer taxes from real property to industry and consumption, and he would not be a party to such a measure.

Mr. HENRY DRUMMOND said, the farmers felt themselves deeply aggrieved—betrayed by those in whom they had trusted, and treated with indifference; they saw the manufacturing and trading interests, when whining suppliants, listened to with sympathy. He should vote for the propositions of Mr. Disraeli, but would vote also for placing the burdens upon the property of the rich, leaving the poor man free to drink untaxed beer, to build with untaxed bricks, and grow hops, tobacco, or anything else he liked, in his garden.

Captain DUDLEY PELHAM made some observations, after which the debate was adjourned to Thursday.

THE PARTY PROCESSIONS (IRELAND) BILL.

Sir W. VERNER moved some verbal amendments to the Party Processions (Ireland) Bill.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL objected that the amendments would give the provisions of the bill an unnecessary stringency.

Mr. GROGAN supported the amendment, which was, however, withdrawn, and the report brought up.

The House rose at half-past 12.

FRANCE.—In the Legislative Assembly, on Monday, the Minister of Public Instruction proposed an amendment to the 17th clause of the Education Bill, to the effect that in all free establishments the Government Inspectors shall have liberty to inquire into the health and religious education of the pupils. This clause was adopted, together with the 19th.

Dr. ACIMILLI attended a meeting of a newly-formed Bible Society in the parish of St. George, Bloomsbury, which was held last evening at the Music Hall, Store-street, Bedford-square. He proposed a resolution, which was carried unanimously, affirming that, in consequence of the energy and activity of the Roman Catholic Church, it was desirable to send copies of the scriptures to all parts of the world, in order that the people of each nation might be enabled to read in their native language.

The *Morning Post* has recently become the special champion of our Foreign Office. The *Times* has long been the manifest ally of our Colonial Office; and it is remarkable that these two journals are diligent in attacking each other's client respectively—the *Post* assailing the Colonial Office, the *Times* the Foreign Her Majesty's Opposition, it seems, extinct in "the House," is to be sought somewhere in the Cabinet itself!—*Spectator*.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK-LANE, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20.

We have to report a very limited supply of grain on the market, consequently every article is held firmly at Monday's rates.

Arrivals this week:—Wheat—English, 170 qrs.; Foreign, 641 qrs. Barley—English, 361 qrs.; Oats—English, 1650 qrs.; Flour—1840 sacks.

From its extensive circulation—far exceeding most of the journals of a similar character published in London—the *Nonconformist* presents a very desirable medium for Advertisements, especially those relating to Schools, Books, Articles of General Consumption, Situations, and Appeals for Philanthropic and Religious Objects. The terms are low:—

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Subscriptions (payable in advance) are received at the Office, 4, Horse Shoe-court, Ludgate-hill.

Post-office Orders, &c., payable to Messrs. Miall and Cockshaw.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"H." We regret that we cannot spare further space for the discussion of the question during the sitting of Parliament.

"W. Rennie." We are obliged to him; but press of other matter prevents our accepting his offer.

"J. C." Yes.

"Common Sense." Declined.

"One of the People." The matter is too local to awaken general interest.

"S. B." The theme is not so generally known as would be necessary to give interest to his lines.

"J. S." One of the pieces we will insert when we can find room.

"A Seceder from the State Church" would do more good by sending his suggestion direct to the parties concerned.

"A Subscriber." His letter, if inserted, would furnish a precedent for a hundred similar ones.

"A thorough Noncon." Of course, if compliance with the regulations of a family, established with a view to the welfare of all its members, cannot be rendered by an individual introduced into it without a violation of his conscience, it would be wrong to enforce it. But if non-compliance be merely the assertion of what is regarded as a Christian liberty, it is for the party claiming that liberty to bear in mind his subordinate relationship. For the sake of others we should be inclined to enforce the rule.

"R. Chandler." We cannot admit anything further on that subject at present.

"Jane." If there existed no possibility of discovering the owner by suitable inquiry, the property found was, of course, rightly appropriated.

"R. Nightingale." Respectfully declined.

"A Working Man." Many thanks; but we have already announced that topic as closed.

"H. T." Certainly not.

Our Camden-Town correspondent is extremely generous; but, until we hear further on the subject, we think the suggestion need scarcely be acted upon.

Received for Dr. Dick, from Mr. R. Plant, Worksop, 10s.

The article on the religious state of Somers Town is in type, but unavoidably postponed.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20, 1850.

[SUMMARY.

THE proceedings of the House of Commons during the past week, present no point of striking interest. Several measures, the general tendency of which may be described as useful, but the purport of which is, in no case, very important, have been brought under discussion, and either rejected at once, or forwarded a stage. In truth, a retail policy appears to be just now in favour. A number of minor matters, none of which interest a very large portion of the public, engrosses the attention of our legislators. Large reforms seem to be for the present effectually shelved. Broad principles finding no chance for a hearing, appear to have left the precincts of the House, and the session of 1850 bids fair to earn for itself the designation of the "day of small things."

The topics which have engaged the notice of the House of Commons may be fitly enough classified into English, Irish, and Colonial.

The English topics which have received a share of Parliamentary notice, are not numerous, nor, all things considered, important. The most beneficial is a measure introduced by Mr. Milner Gibson, under the title of the County-rates and Expenditure Bill. The principle which it seeks to embody, is to give to rate-payers a control concurrent with that of the magistrates over the county expenditure. We have no doubt that Mr. Gibson, in seeking to place the matter upon this footing, is doing homage rather to his chances of success, than to the decisions of his own judgment. He offers a somewhat timid compromise, and, we may add, that the tone in which he recommends it is as timid as the offer. If he secures the object at which he aims, he will have gained one step in a right direction. Lord John Russell having been appealed to, promised his support to the second reading of the bill; but it is plain that the proposal is distasteful to the country party. Mr. Gibson was, therefore, urged

to allow an adjournment of the debate. And, overborne, it would seem, by the request of Sir Robert Peel, he rejected Mr. Hume's advice, and acceded to the postponement. Another measure claiming a word or two of notice is the bill proposed by Mr. Cornwall Lewis, to amend the laws relative to the management of highways in England and Wales. He proposes to transfer from the rate-payers at large, to the existing Boards of Guardians, the supervision of highways in the present divisions of the Poor-law Unions, leaving the incidence of the burden entirely unchanged. Paid district-surveyors are to be appointed, and compensation to the officers of Unions for the additional trouble to which they will be put, is to be provided. General satisfaction with the measure was expressed. Possibly, it may be needed; but, at present, we can see in it nothing but a cautious approach to centralization, and the creation of a number of salaried offices. This, perhaps, may account for the general favour it found in the House of Commons. Lastly, Mr. Ewart has obtained leave to bring in a bill, empowering Town Councils to establish public libraries and museums. We had much rather he had prevailed upon the Ministry to repeal all taxes upon the means of diffusing knowledge among the people. We legislate on the one hand to obviate the evils engendered by legislation on the other.

Irish topics are more varied in their character. Thus, we have an effort on the part of Mr. Fagan to get rid of "Ministers' money," vetoed, for the present, by Sir George Grey, on the standing excuse that just now a substitute for it cannot be found. We have also a proposal of Lord John Russell to advance three hundred thousand pounds to meet the debts of some thirty distressed unions; to convert other debts, in places where the pressure of the poor-law is strongly felt, into consolidated annuities; and to allow forty years for the repayment of these advances, by annual instalments, with interest where it is named by previous Acts of Parliament, without interest where it is not so named. And we have a Chancery Reform Bill—a useful measure, urged on with spirit by Sir John Romilly—carried, in the face of strong opposition, through its second reading.

We come now to Colonial topics. Mr. Adderley has attempted, but in vain, to prevent any future mischief similar to that recently perpetrated at the Cape, by taking from the Privy Council power to appoint any places in her Majesty's dominions for the transportation of felons, and others under sentence of punishment. His intention, however, was frustrated by a large majority. We cannot say we regret this issue. The whole question of transportation demands discussion on its own merits, and, in our judgment, it is unwise to attempt to dispose of it by a side-wind. The Ministerial Australian bill has been read a second time. They who are anxious for a reform in the management of our colonies seem already to have detected what we pointed out last week, the vast discrepancy between the liberal principles enunciated by Lord John Russell, and the abortive and inconsistent measure he submitted as an embodiment of them. Mr. Hume, we perceive, has justly denounced those provisions of the bill by which, without regard to the disposition of the colonists, an annual charge to the amount of forty-nine thousand pounds, for "public worship," is saddled upon them in perpetuity. We notice with satisfaction that the Newcastle and Gateshead Religious Freedom Society is calling the attention of members of Parliament to this vexatious and tyrannical proposal, by addressing to them a short circular, and requesting opposition to the vote; and, as Mr. Hume has intimated his intention of moving in committee the annulment of this provision, our friends cannot do better than memorialize their respective representatives to be present and give him their support.

The House of Lords has had a "field-day" on the Dolly's Brae affair. Lord Stanley, in a speech of great length, impugned the Irish executive for the dismissal of Lord Roden from the magisterial Bench. Lord Clarendon came over purposely to reply to him, and certainly, his reply, taken in connexion with the confessions of Lord Roden himself, was a complete overthrow of the noble partisan. We have remarked upon the only feature of interest presented by the debate to our mind, in the article below. We cannot complain that public time was wasted by the discussion, seeing that the Lords have nothing whatever to do.

A deputation has waited upon Lord John Russell to try and prevail upon his lordship to remove the excise duty upon paper. The facts stated, and the arguments urged, by the several gentlemen composing it, were unanswerable. Lord John, it is said, received them with "courtesy." We fear that this is all they will obtain at his hands. The surplus revenue, we are informed, is to be appropriated in part payment of the Irish loan, and no remission of taxes is to be allowed. Well! the Whigs fancy themselves strong, at last, and able to brave public opinion. Let them take their course! they will yet have to meet a day of reck-

oning—much sooner, perhaps, than they are prepared to expect.

Never did Pope, or the Holy Office, display a more *audacious* disregard of justice and public opinion, in their attempts to extirpate heresy, than is shown by the dominant party in the Wesleyan body, in their proscription of obnoxious members. Indeed, we scarcely recollect an exhibition of intolerant priesthood, in connexion with any ecclesiastical corporation, more repugnant to all right and Christian feeling, than that in which the President and the Conference party, the leading members of which are members of the Evangelical Alliance, are now the actors. We will not say that their policy is Methodism *v.* Christianity, but it is Methodism in violation of Christianity. Each succeeding week demonstrates more unmistakably than before, that their object is not so much the preservation of the present Wesleyan organization, as the maintenance of Conference despotism unimpaired. We have seen the editor of the *Wesleyan Times* excommunicated, because he has advocated reform. Others have been expelled for taking part in public meetings to sympathize with Messrs. Everett, Dunn, and Griffith, and for condemning the acts of the late Conference. In another case, one of the charges was the crime of having entertained one of the expelled ministers! The last victim is the Rev. James Bromley, of Bath, one of the most popular ministers in the Connexion, who is suspended till the next Conference, on a series of charges, one of which is, that he has "grossly aspersed and openly abetted the slanderers of his ministerial brethren." Mr. Bromley claimed his privilege to be tried by a mixed court. This, however, was refused by the ministers who were at once his accusers and his judges. The President and his friends, in reply to the charge of intolerance in these acts, aver that they are only carrying into effect the laws of the society, and that any who do not approve of them can leave the Connexion. It appears, however, that the laws of 1835, under which these proceedings have been taken, were, until recently, scarcely known, except to the initiated few. The great bulk of the laity was perfectly unaware of their tendency, until the agitation of the reform question brought its despotic provisions into operation. Happily the whole system of Conference despotism has at length been exposed to the light of day. Now that Wesleyan Methodists have plucked up courage to examine it, they are almost surprised that they should have so long submitted to be bound hand and foot by the arbitrary decrees of an ecclesiastical tribunal. Much to the annoyance of the dominant party, they are resolved on a reconstruction of the system rather than on secession, and if they persevere in their present course, the Conference, in spite of the possession of chapels and trust-deeds, will, we imagine, be either obliged to succumb, or become a mere *caput mortuum*, by losing the support of the bulk of the Connexion.

The length of our summary of Parliamentary proceedings prevents us doing more than casually alluding to the principal features of the foreign news of the week. The renewal of the armistice between Denmark and Germany, in relation to the Schleswig-Holstein question, is so far gratifying as to remove the apprehension of an immediate resumption of hostilities; but it is to be feared, that the further demands of the King of Denmark, backed as that power is by Russia and Austria, will jeopardize a peaceful settlement of the question. The great object of the absolutist sovereigns is, apparently, to thwart, in every possible way, the King of Prussia in his scheme for giving a liberal constitution to Germany. The arbitrary policy of Louis Napoleon's Cabinet has elicited the approbation of his "affectionate friend," the Russian Czar, who, in announcing an event which has taken place in his family, takes the opportunity of designating him as "our great and good friend, M. le President of the French Republic." The latter is in truth striving to deserve the friendship of the Russian autocrat. While the Legislative Assembly is discussing questions of social and educational importance, Louis Napoleon and his ministers are employed, without the aid or sanction of that body, in proscribing editors of newspapers and men of liberal politics, in Paris and throughout the departments, and the military power is being re-organized so as to be more completely under the control of the Government. Whilst Legitimists and Orleanists are intriguing, Louis Napoleon is gradually developing a military despotism, of which, however, he is as likely as not to be the first victim.

HEADS, I WIN—TAILS, YOU LOSE.

IT is a serious disadvantage to the people of these realms that their political affairs are under the exclusive control of an oligarchy, in appearance, but not in reality, divided amongst themselves. There may have been periods in the history of our country, when the collisions of party struck out some measures beneficial to the people. That day, however, is gone by. The public inter-

rest would now gain, to an incalculable extent, by a complete fusion of all sections of the dominant class, into one body, and by an ostensible, as well as actual, extinction of those differences which appear to exist between her Majesty's Government and what has been very aptly designated her Majesty's Opposition. Practically, the principles upon which an administration must be conducted are the same. The Whigs are Tories in power, the Tories are Whigs out of power. The points of disagreement between them are commonly points which every Government, Whig or Tory, will treat alike. The factions seem to be contending about different systems of policy. In reality they are contending only for the possession or retention of office. Hence, there is great show of action, but no results—much movement, but no progress. The people look on, and, till lately, have been accustomed to think, their interests involved in the struggle. Experience, however, has taught them that victory on either side, brings with it no relief to them. They are still the beast of burden, whoever may be conquerors. And, it would seem, that it is the settled policy of the contending factions, to get up furious contests for the mere purpose of diverting attention from public questions, and amusing the people with an idea that Parliament is zealously intent upon promoting to the utmost the development and consolidation of popular rights and privileges.

These remarks are painfully illustrated by the proceedings of the legislature from the commencement of the present session. That there exists any formal understanding between the two factions of the oligarchy, as to the mode in which they should mutually conduct themselves, in order to obstruct all useful reforms, we do not affect to believe. But we do say, that if their object had been to keep things *in statu quo*, and a plan for the realization of that object had been struck out by common consent, the result could hardly have been more effectually accomplished than is already done. For example.—The session opened, as our readers will recollect, with a furious onset of the Protectionists upon the free-trade policy of Government. It could scarcely be anticipated by the most uninformed, it could not have been wished by the shrewdest and most far-seeing of the party, that a triumph would be achieved over Ministers on this ground. The Protectionists lost nothing in the encounter—the Government gained a great show of strength—and the people, no longer necessary to protect the "ins" against the assault of the "outs," ceased thereupon to be regarded as important. Hence, Lord John Russell was emboldened, on the very next night of the session, to nullify language which he had put into the mouth of his sovereign, and to declare that, for the present, at least, finality must be received as the order of the day.

On Monday night a similar victory was given to the Whig Administration in the House of Lords. An impartial administration of law, irrespective entirely of religious opinions, has become a recognised principle of our constitution. To attack it is only to court a defeat, and to place the party defending it in an impregnable position. Lord Stanley, however, did the Whigs this favour on Monday night. With great solemnity, and at unusual length, he brought under notice the conduct of Lord Clarendon in dismissing from the Bench of Magistracy the Earl of Roden and the Messrs. Beers, on account of their connexion with the Dolly's Brae *fracas*. As if to give the Whigs a fuller opportunity than ordinary of achieving a public triumph, and appearing to the country as the successful guardians of a noble principle, he challenged the presence of Lord Clarendon, and, by his preliminary deportment, threw around the contest an air of serious importance. Need we say that he was thoroughly beaten—that the Whigs have, by his defeat, gained a large accession of moral power—and that the people, after this battle of the factions, remained precisely where they were? The consequences have not yet disclosed themselves; but we shall be greatly mistaken indeed, if in this, as in former instances, the issue is not found to be a more cavalier treatment of every popular demand by the triumphant Administration. The ends of both sections of the aristocracy will thus have been answered, and government for, and by means of, the people, will be considered far less necessary now than it was deemed to be two months ago. The victors, as usual, will grow insolent; and public interests will be more unblushingly neglected.

Thus it is, that we who constitute the public are continually cozened out of all fair opportunities of progress, by the mock contentions of those who monopolize the ruling power. This is one of the prime reasons which account for the wide difference of tone between the people out of doors, and their professed representatives within. The questions which absorb public attention and regard, can scarcely force for themselves a hearing in the House of Commons. Those upon which the people have made up their minds, and respecting which they have been able to give definite utter-

ance to their will in the statute-book of the empire, are the only ones which are keenly, but to no practical purpose, debated by political parties. Historic facts which no discussions can alter, especially when they involve personal considerations, are chosen as the main battle-fields between those who happen to have power and those who are longing to obtain it, whilst measures of serious practical worth, affecting, to an incalculable extent, the well-being of the country, are constantly deferred, be the termination of the encounter what it may. Between the two aristocratic factions, and their never-ending differences, the business affairs of this empire are kept pretty much at a stand-still. The language which these struggles virtually address to the people is, "Heads, I win—tails, you lose."

We know of no stronger argument in favour of radical Parliamentary reform, than the prevailing disposition evinced by both parties in the Legislature to fight over, again and again, questions which have been permanently settled. It is a kind of border warfare, in which pillage is the main object, and which, if permitted to continue, will distract general attention from all thoughts and plans of progress. But, spite of Lord John Russell's determination to stay where he is, and to keep the preponderance of political power exclusively in the hands of a manageable few, such a state of things is evidently drawing towards a close. No system of government can long outlive the settled contempt of a nation. Change may be deferred for a year or two; but, happily, it cannot be prevented. And the longer it is postponed the more searching will it be at last. The day of the people will come by and by, when deliberation will take the place of contest, and practical measures will be discussed by earnest men, instead of, as now, unalterable facts fought over by party zeal.

MR. O'CONNOR AND THE NATIONAL LAND COMPANY.

THE career of Mr. Feargus O'Connor will add another, and a very interesting, chapter to the "History of Popular Delusions." The volume is already large enough to make us blush for the credulity, while we admire the generous trustfulness, of our race. We can never open it without finding fresh reasons for mingled gratulation and regret that we are men. The most wonderful exhibitions of insane credulity and of heroic achievement or endurance lie side by side. Many are the martyrs for truth—but more, perhaps, are the victims of deception—men doing and suffering on behalf of a phantasy; submitting to privations, performing miracles, on behalf of an object which, however desirable, a little common sense would have shown to be utterly unattainable by the means employed. And these men are generally found to be the dupes of others, who themselves were duped by themselves—at least, such is the more charitable and consistent "reading of history" now popular.

And such is the "reading" which a Middlesex special jury, under the direction of a learned judge, and following the precedent of a Committee of the House of Commons, have put on Mr. O'Connor's conduct in relation to the National Land Company. He sued the editor of the *Nottingham Journal* for a libel, describing him as having "wheeled the people of England out of £100,000, with which he bought estates, and conveyed them to his own use and benefit," and as "a great political impostor." The defendant did not shrink from the challenge given. Represented by an advocate who generally contrives to throw all his nature—his atrabilious temper, as well as his acute intellect and trenchant tongue—into whatever cause he undertakes, he boldly maintained that Mr. O'Connor had organized an illegal association, of which he was the self-appointed manager and treasurer, to which he had obtained subscriptions to the amount of £112,000, under the pretence of locating the contributors, in the course of three, or at most six years, on freehold farms—that with this fund he had purchased several large estates, on which the few families settled could barely subsist, and which estates being conveyed to himself, were legally his own property, liable to be seized by his creditors, or claimed by his heirs; besides which, he had established a bank, the depositors in which supposed that the estates of the Land Company were their security, whereas the bank was his private concern, and a losing affair; and that, moreover, by making his own paper, the *Northern Star*, the official organ of this company, he had more than trebled its circulation in two years. When we add, that the whole of these averments—with the exception of that which affirmed the condition of the "fortunate allottees," on their three acres of land, to be worse than that of the ordinary agricultural or manual labourer—were established by evidence, and repeated, in tones of condemnation, from the judicial bench, it will be supposed that the verdict was decisively against him. It was for the defendant—accompanied, however, with the saving clause, that no imputation of dishonesty rested on the plaintiff's per-

sonal character. The politician, in short, is found guilty of imposture—the man is acquitted of knavery.

In that finding we entirely agree. We believe it hits off the whole character and career of the member for Nottingham. It looks paradoxical—but the paradox is one of daily recurrence. We are perpetually reminded in political life that human nature is Janus-faced. It is one of the many cases in which fact and theory are at war—one of those problems of which the solution has not yet been found, but would not, probably, long elude diligent search. It seems natural that the man should be in the world what he is at home—that the spirit within him should operate alike in all departments of action—and it is certain that he should be; but almost as certain that he often is not, and yet cannot be charged with hypocrisy. We never suspected Feargus O'Connor of coaxing the multitude into letting him take care of their money, that he might squander it on his pleasures, or peril it in his business. We attributed it rather to a sincere desire to elevate their condition, joined with a vain-glorious self-conceit—not worth the name of ambitious egotism—which would not allow him to calculate coolly the probabilities or possibilities of success, and even impelled him to frustrate the wiser efforts of others rather than lose the pleasure of doing it himself. We judged thus respecting the land scheme, because we had been led to that estimate of the man's character by his antecedent career. We observed him for years in the capacity of a Chartist leader, acting like the very incarnation of mischief—disgracing and dividing the body at every step, thwarting every sagacious counsel, abusing every temperate friend, repelling with insult every kindly advance from the middle, and attempting to put down every independent spokesman for the working classes. We are gratified, therefore, as well that it confirms our own judgment as that it vindicates his pecuniary integrity, to find that, suspicious as are the circumstances by which he has surrounded his project for the social improvement of the people, he has wronged himself more than others by giving to it that suspicious aspect.

If we could venture to hope that any advice of ours would influence one whose self-will has already wrought incalculable damage to the cause we love—especially that he would profit by the lesson thus a second time read out to him by the tribunal to which he himself appealed—we would earnestly urge Mr. O'Connor to act out the pledge involved in his adhesion to the National Parliamentary and Financial Reform Association. By joining that body he virtually engaged to abstain in future from those disastrous tactics by which he had become unenviably famous; to refrain from appealing to the worse passions of his auditory, and to deny himself the cheap luxury of their unintelligent applause; to prune his speech of those distasteful epithets and unlimited promises which are sure to excite the disgust of many, and the disappointment of many more; as well as to cease from those charlatan conventions and mock parliaments in which he has hitherto delighted. By acting in the spirit of that engagement—by cordial union with his new associates, as well as by conscientious abstinence from factious opposition—by discountenancing the men who are already attempting, with too much success, to play the part he professes to have put off, aiming to share his popularity with less than he of principle and good intention—he may undo much of the mischief he has perpetrated, advance the political liberties of the working classes, for whose welfare we are willing to believe him concerned, and even demonstrate the practicability of his ulterior object, the possession of the soil with the suffrage.

On this last point—which the *Times* is glad to take the opportunity of representing as of proved impossibility—we would add, we see nothing whatever in the evidence given at this trial, whether by the Poor-law Commissioner, by actuaries, or by allottees, to discourage those who look to the land as the natural and ready means of redressing the inequalities, and extinguishing the consequent evils, of our present social system. That 70,000 *bond fide* working men—artizans of Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester, and London—did actually save £112,000 to purchase land, willing to wait a reasonable time for its possession, and to work hard for its retention, proves how strong a hold the idea has taken of the popular mind in this country. That the sum contributed was insufficient to put more than two per cent. of the contributors upon their allotments in the five years which the sanguine projector is said to have promised as sufficient to locate them all, proves only how needful it is that wealthy, business, benevolent men—men able to inspire confidence by the largeness of their own disinterested investments in the enterprise, and qualified by legal knowledge and commercial habits to conduct it with discretion—men marked out by Providence to give effect to ideas dropped by that same Providence into the popular soul, and responsible therefore to their age and country for the discharge of that high duty—should devote themselves to the practical solution of the economical

questions involved, and the attainment of the legislative changes needed. Except they thus act, the people will be again and again duped by men of more enthusiasm than principle, and more ambition than either—perhaps fleeced by personal knaves as well as deluded by political impostors—and so, the period of their social emancipation be indefinitely delayed; peradventure their anger, bitter offspring of disappointed hopes, suddenly experienced.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

HOW TO MAKE A ROGUE.

(From the *Examiner*.)

"Heartless Robbery," "Audacious Robbery," "Impudent Robbery," are headings of frequent occurrence in the Police Reports; whence it is to be inferred that robberies differ in their moral qualities, and that as some merit these severe descriptions, there are others which are modest robberies, mild robberies, moderate robberies, considerate robberies. The same terms apply to acts of misappropriation which, at the expense of the public, are not called by the harsh name of robbery or embezzlement, but default; and of this kind the most moderate and modest case that ever came within our knowledge is that of Mr. Knight Murray, late Secretary and Treasurer of the Ecclesiastical Commission. This gentleman held the funds of the Commission in his hands for nine years without any sort of accountability, subject to no audit, to no questioning of any kind; he received, he paid, as if the monies were his own, and at the bank the account stood in his own name, as if a private one. Within the time mentioned a million sterling thus passed through his hands without any check, control, or supervision, and yet, wonderful to say, Mr. Murray has defaulted only to the amount of £7,000 up to the time of his disappearance; therefore, at the end of fourteen years from the date of his appointment, he has misappropriated at the modest rate of £500 a year, having had a whole million at his disposal. And what makes this moderate and modest pillage the more extraordinary is, that in the year 1845 he figured in the return of subscriptions to railways to the amount of £580,000. A dishonesty like this is really the next thing to honesty. The bishops trusted their conjoined Secretary and Treasurer, as the saying is, with untold gold, and the Church property has only suffered to the extent of £7,000. And even for this loss who is to blame? Not primarily and chiefly Mr. Murray. To do as we would be done by is the grand rule of Christianity, and bishops pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;" nevertheless they did not scruple to lead Mr. Murray into temptation and to deliver him up to evil, in placing immense funds in his hands without any check or guard against abuse of opportunity. They thus saved themselves trouble at the prie of the corruption and ruin of their servant, to boot with some thousands diverted from the aid of the poor part of the Church.

We say that the Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Commission are gravely responsible for their omissions in respect of Mr. Murray. Seneca observes as to ingratitude, *Multos experimur plures facimus ingratios*. The same may be said of dishonesty; and the holy men of the Ecclesiastical Commission have set the most signal example of the method of corrupting and debauching an honest man. They have led him into temptation. They trusted him in the surest way to make him untrustworthy. He owes what he is to them; he owes his shame, his disgrace to them; his fault is the child of their culpable negligence. Mr. Horsman asks whether they will pay the sum for which default is made, but that is the least consideration; will they, can they restore the character which their blameable omissions, attended with exposure to great temptation, have corrupted and ruined? What sort of stewards are they who set this example? How do they discharge their own trusts, while they so manage those in trust under them as to tempt to breaches of trust? The office of a bishop is the office of overlooker, and verily in one sense they perform it to the letter, for they too often overlook what they ought vigilantly to watch and guard over, after the fashion exhibited in Mr. Murray's instance. They will say they were deceived in him; he professed mighty zeal for the Church; he was supple, subservient, sycophantic; for these qualities he became a favourite—for these qualities he was implicitly trusted, and with the direct consequence of becoming a defaulter and a ruined man. *Æsop's* thief at the gallows bit off his mother's ear: a certain burley bishop is happily out of the reach of Mr. Murray's teeth, or he might justly suffer a worse mutilation.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, however, denies that the Commission has been to blame, and says it was the act of the Legislature which placed the two functions of secretary and treasurer in the hands of one individual. But have the bishops no voice, no influence in the Legislature? and did they ever take the trouble to point out the impropriety and imprudence of this junction of offices, or make any effort whatever to place the funds of the Commission under safer management? For years they connived at the imprudence of the Legislature, though in any day of the sitting of Parliament a representation from them would have led to the correction of the indiscretion. If their own incomes had been exposed to the opportunity of pillage by any similar mismanagement, does any one believe they would have remained passive and silent?

Some four or five years ago Mr. Evelyn Denison

drew attention to the fact of Mr. Murray's extensive connexion with railways, and his abuse of the means at his command as Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Commission, by employing its servants in railway business in which he was interested. Did the Commission then take the alarm, did they take warning, did they look about them and see the danger to the property committed to their charge, from the excessive trust and power confided to their joint secretary and treasurer, little scrupulous about his uses of opportunity? Not a jot. They thought of nothing but defending their parasitical officer, and going on as before in the same besotted misplaced security; and the Archbishop of Canterbury now states, that it was not till within six months of Mr. Murray's flight that he made away with the £7,000, so that the delinquency and the loss might have been averted if Mr. Evelyn Denison's notice of Mr. Murray's conduct had roused the vigilance of the Commission, and induced them to look into the guarantees for their treasurer's honest discharge of his trust, instead of blindly relying on his rectitude and integrity, and in doing so destroying both.

It is a common saying of a bad character, "He would rob a church;" but as training for this climax of roguery, let him be Secretary of an Ecclesiastical Commission, and the petticoat on the bench of bishops. The minion will then not only rob the church, but, worst of all, the poor's-box of the Church.

Remarkable it is, however, that the bishops, who have thus allowed the ecclesiastical funds to be pillaged, are as wary and circumspect as any men in the world in providing for the security of their own peculiar revenues. Their vigilance does not slumber for everybody. If they managed their trusts for others as they manage for themselves, there would be no default for want of the commonest precautions for accountability.

How the Right Reverend Commissioners are to make atonement to the defaulter for making whom what he is they have to answer, is a moral question we are not prepared to solve. The money may be recovered, but the man is lost, and lost through the temptation into which they have led him, against which for themselves they pray to Heaven not to be led.

MAKE-BELIEVE COLONIAL REFORM.

Considering the laudations bestowed upon Lord John Russell's speech on colonial reform, on Friday week, by the press in general, our remarks on the subject might appear somewhat severe. The result, however, perfectly justifies the terms in which we dealt with the subject. Thus the *Morning Chronicle* (a colonial reformer) comes to the conclusion that the House of Commons ought to reject the Australian Colonies Bill *in toto*. The *Spectator*, in an article showing the total variance between Lord John Russell's declarations and measures, under the sarcastic title, "Local Self-government, by the Colonial Office," thus describes the real nature of that measure:—

The bill makes a constitution for five colonies; or rather, it extends to four of them the present constitution of New South Wales, which it preserves for that colony. Under this constitution there is a Legislature consisting of two branches—the Council and the Governor. The Council is composed of two classes of members, two-thirds of them being elected, and the other third appointed by the Governor: it is as if 436 Members of the House of Commons were elected, and 218 appointed by the Executive. The Governor, or head of the local Executive, who thus appoints one-third of the Council, is himself appointed and removable by the Colonial Office. All offices in the colony are in the appointment of the Governor—that is, of the Colonial Office, whose servant he is. The assent of this servant of the Colonial Office is indispensable to all acts of the Legislature; and he can reserve acts for assent or disallowance by the Colonial Office. Being himself an essential portion of the Legislature, and having the appointment of a third of the other portion, as well as of all Executive officers, he is bound to obey whatever instructions he may receive from the Colonial Office in London. We are stating facts. Let the bill be examined, and there they will be found. They may be incredible, but there they are. Excepting as the elective form is so far admitted into the constitution of these colonies as to provide for impediments to legislation, and for discord between the Executive and a portion of the Legislature, all local authority and power is, ostensibly as well as really, secured for distant Downing-street: it is the "local self-government" of antipodean colonies by an authority resident in London: the difference between the declaration of principles and the measure proposed is one of contradiction in words and complete opposition in substance.

THE SURPLUS REVENUE.—For some time past it has been generally supposed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer means to apply the surplus revenue at his disposal to the extinction of the Irish loan of £8,000,000 contracted in 1847. But what has heretofore been only matter of surmise, has now become matter of moral certainty. The *Times* of Wednesday, in an article which bore upon its face the impress of an official origin, intimated, in terms as explicit as if the announcement had been made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Parliament, that there is to be no repeal or reduction of taxes this session, but that the surplus revenue in the possession of the right hon. gentleman is to be applied to the payment of the Irish loan of £8,000,000.

THE TOWN-COUNCIL OF PRESTON have voted £8,000 for the erection of public baths and wash-houses. The building will be on the model of the washhouse in Goulston-square, and will contain a hundred baths and a hundred washing compartments.

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Agricultural distress, for relief of, 6.

County-rates and Expenditure Bill, in favour of, 49.

Education (Ireland), for alteration of, 10.

Marriage Bill, in favour of, 1.

_____, against, 1.

Taxes on knowledge, for repeal of, 14.

Post-office, for abolition of Sunday labour in, 178.

Slave-trade Felony Act, for repeal of, 1.

Landlord and Tenant (Ireland), for amendment of law, 1.

Ministers' money (Ireland), for the abolition of, 2.

Postage, for uniform penny postage between Great Britain and all parts of the world, 4.

Slave-trade, for suppression of, 2.

Small Debts Act, for amendment of, 2.

Tailor trade, for better regulation, 1.

Cape of Good Hope, against penal settlement, 13.

Malt duties, for repeal of, 1.

Window-tax, for repeal of, 1.

BILLS PRESENTED AND READ A FIRST TIME.

Parliamentary Voters, &c. (Ireland), Bill.

Elections (Ireland) Bill.

Mercantile Marine Bill.

Merchant Seamen's Fund Bill.

Shipping Bill.

Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Bill.

Commons Inclosure Bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Life Policies of Assurance (No. 2) Bill.

Party Processions (Ireland) Bill.

Australian Colonies Government Bill.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

[Since our last.]

Thursday, February 21. Colonel Dunne—Committee of the whole House, to take into consideration the Laws which prohibit the cultivation of Tobacco in the United Kingdom, with a view to their removal.

Friday, February 22. The Chancellor of the Exchequer—Select Committee on Savings' Banks.

... The Chancellor of the Exchequer—Bill for amending the Law relating to Savings' Banks.

Tuesday, February 26. Mr. Hume—That this House, taking into consideration the condition of the cottages of the labourers of this Kingdom, and the want of adequate accommodation for their families, is of opinion that a Drawback should in future be allowed on the Bricks and Timber employed in the construction of cottages, the rent of which shall be under £4 per annum, as a means of lessening the expense of their erection.

On a future day. Viscount Melgund—To submit a Notice for the Reform and Extension of the School Establishment of Scotland.

The following Motions have been Postponed:—Mr. Hume—on Parliamentary Reform; to Thursday, Feb. 28. Sir De L. Evans—to make the payment of a Direct Tax to Government, or a parish, qualification for the Parliamentary Franchise; Feb. 28. Mr. M. Gibson—to Repeal the Taxes on Knowledge; Feb. 28. Mr. Ewart—for the Repeal of the Advertisement Duty; Feb. 28. Mr. Hume—for the Abolition of the Irish Lord-Lieutenancy; Feb. 28. Mr. Staney—relative to the Social Improvement of the Working Classes; Feb. 26.

DEBATES.

COUNTY RATING AND EXPENDITURE.

In the House of Commons, on Wednesday, on the order being read for the second reading of the County Rates and Expenditure Bill,

Mr. MILNER GIBSON explained, that he had taken charge of the bill at the request of his friend Mr. Hume; whose earnest desire it is that councils should be established to control county expenditure on a principle similar to the councils in boroughs. The county-rates are a matter of no small amount. In the year 1835, when there was an alarm about their increase and the extent to which they had then arrived, the entire sum raised throughout the country was £690,000. The total at present is no less than £1,300,000: and they have increased in a much greater ratio than the increase of crime or of population. In Lancashire, in the year 1834, the county-rate was about 3d. in the pound; it is at present nearly 8d. (about 7½d.) notwithstanding the assessment upon the poor-rates has increased from £4,000,000 to £6,000,000. The amount of rate is not only larger in the pound, but it is assessed upon a greater amount of property. The object of the present bill is merely to give the rate-payers a control concurrent with that of the magistrates over the county expenditure. In proposing the second reading, Mr. Gibson merely asked the House to affirm the obvious principle that taxation and representation should go together. If the second reading were agreed to he would propose that the bill should be sent before a select committee, where its details could be carefully examined and arranged; and if the House did not afterwards approve of it, they might throw it out upon the third reading.

Mr. SPOONER requested Mr. Gibson not to press forward the bill; he was in favour of the principle of representative control over the county-rates, but could not lend himself to support this precise measure. He moved the adjournment of the debate.

A rather protracted discussion arose on the question of adjournment; some members backing Mr. Spooner's request for delay, and Mr. HUME urging Mr. Gibson to stick to his motion, as postponement would but end in defeat. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON and Sir ROBERT PEEL joined in the request for further time; hinting that present perseverance might not forward the bill ultimately. Mr. MILNER GIBSON therefore gave way; really he could not stand against this kind of pressure.

In reply to Mr. ROEBUCK's question, what would be the disposition of the Government as regarded the principle of combining representation with taxation, Lord JOHN RUSSELL said, that having been himself much concerned in the introduction upon a large scale of that principle, he should, when the question came before them, give his support to the second reading of the bill.

The debate was adjourned till Wednesday, the 13th of March.

HIGHWAYS.

Moving for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relative to the management of the highways of England and Wales on Thursday,

Mr. CORNEWALL LEWIS confessed that the insuperable difficulties indicated last session had induced him to relinquish the hope of comprehending the subjects of turnpike roads and of highways in one bill; he therefore confined his proposals to the management of the highways and parish roads. Repeating much of the statistical matter which he presented to the House last year, Mr. Lewis explained the main provisions of his bill to be—the vesting of the power in the ratepayers now at large, in the boards of poor-law guardians; and the appointment of paid district surveyors, in lieu of the present unpaid parochial surveyors. He proposed simply to take the existing divisions of the Poor-law Unions and the existing board of guardians, and give to them the power of management. Such an arrangement would render unnecessary any new territorial division. With regard to expenditure, it was proposed to leave the maintenance of highways a charge on each parish or township precisely as at present, the different boards electing paid surveyors. Each parish or township would continue to maintain its own highway; and the only charge borne in common would be the salary of the surveyor, and compensation to the officers of unions for the additional trouble to which they might be put. The entire incidence of the burden on account of highways would therefore remain unchanged. He would entirely abolish the highway-rate by name, and would require the overseers of the poor to make a rate for the purposes of the highways, and collect it just as they collect the poor-rates, and pay it over to the guardians of the poor. The management of the highway would not require that engrossing attention which had to be paid to the management of poor relief; and it is proposed that the various boards should appoint standing committees, upon whom would devolve the management of affairs. It is presumed that the members of the boards composing those committees would have been accustomed to turn their attention to the management of these rates; and that in their management the various bodies would place reliance.

The bill met general approbation. Mr. DEDDES confessed a change in his views since last session, and thanked Government for an improvement of a faulty system. Mr. B. DENISON and Mr. RICH approved of the compulsory system of consolidation proposed in lieu of the permissive one now existing. Sir ROBERT PEEL, Mr. SLANEY, and Mr. VERNON SMITH, offered suggestions with their approval; Sir Robert Peel adding compliments to Mr. Lewis for his creditable labours. Sir WILLIAM JOLLIFFE and Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY were malecontent, on the ground that no change beneficial to agriculture is proposed in the *incidence* of the rates.

Leave was given: subsequently the Highways Bill was brought in, and read a first time.

MINISTERS' MONEY (IRELAND).

Mr. W. FAGAN then rose to move (for the third time) for a Committee of the whole House, to take into consideration the law relating to the rate or tax called "Ministers' Money" in Ireland. He urged the obnoxious and unjust nature of an imposition levied upon Dublin, Cork, Clonmel, Kilkenny, Kinsale, Drogheda, and Waterford, inhabited mostly by Roman Catholics, whilst the towns of Protestant Ulster were exempt; which nourished religious rancour, every Roman Catholic feeling the tax to be a stigma on his religion, whilst even Protestants viewed it as odious and offensive. A substitute might easily be found in the revenues of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in Ireland, who might apply the proceeds of sale of perpetuities to this object until their ordinary income had increased. The Protestant clergy in the towns in question were themselves anxious for the abolition of this obnoxious tax and an alteration in the mode by which their income was paid; and, indeed, it could not but be odious to them to distract the effects of their poor Roman Catholic parishioners. Some of these Protestant clergymen believed it to be their duty—no doubt they acted conscientiously—to lecture and preach in disparagement of the religion of those from whom they received this income; he (Mr. Fagan) had just received a handbill that had been circulated among his Roman Catholic constituents, stating that yesterday—Ash Wednesday—a lecture would be delivered in one of the churches in Cork, the object of which would be to prove that the Church of Rome had erred from the faith and practice of the apostolic church. No clergyman having the right feeling of a minister of religion could be otherwise than anxious that a tax paid for his support by those whose religion he was in the habit of thus disparaging should be abolished, and a substitute found, in order to relieve him from so unpleasant a position [hear]. During the recess, Lord Clarendon had communicated to his (Mr. Fagan's) constituents, that the subject was under the consideration of the Government. He now came before the House with renewed confidence, remembering the kindly disposition of Lord Clarendon towards the country over which he presided, and the recent visit of her Majesty, indicative of her desire to see justice done to that country [hear]. There was no such tax as this of Ministers' money in England, with the exception of an ancient tax in the City of London; and this anomaly ought not to remain any longer in the Irish branch of the united Church of England and Ireland [hear, hear]. Upon the general question of the Establishment he had not considered this the occasion for entering: but he could not think he was doing anything to

subvert the Church Establishment in endeavouring to remove this anomaly [hear].

Sir G. GREY must say that the hon. gentleman had brought forward the subject again in the same spirit of fairness and with the same temper and discretion as in last session—[hear, hear]—there was nothing at all to complain of in the manner in which the motion had been presented to the attention of the House [hear, hear]. He (Sir G. Grey) only regretted that, the circumstances being almost identical, he was compelled to take the same course as on the former occasion, and move the previous question. The hon. gentleman had stated, that in moving the previous question he had admitted the hon. member's case; and, to a certain degree, he had. He had admitted that it was very much to be deplored that the income of some of the clergy in the towns in question was dependent upon a source obnoxious both in their own opinion, and in the opinion of those who paid it [hear, hear]. In the report of the committee upon this subject, in 1848, there was a reference to the conduct of some of those clergymen in foregoing their dues rather than incur the odium to their religion, as well as to themselves personally, of their coming into collision with their Roman Catholic neighbours [hear, hear]. But the hon. gentleman had not stated the resolution of that committee. The committee, after advertizing to several propositions for providing a substitute, not proposing the abolition of the tax without a substitute (in which the hon. member appeared to concur with them), said, they had proceeded to make inquiry into the receipt and expenditure of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and that they had arrived at the conclusion, not that there was in the hands of the Commissioners a fund sufficient to provide a substitute, but only "that the existing income of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners was adequate to their actual expenditure," and that prospectively and contingent upon the occurrence of certain events, a large increase in their funds would take place, and the augmentation of their funds might be rendered available as a substitute for ministers' money. They did not say that it then existed, but that when it arrived, a substitute might be provided for this impost, most inconvenient and obnoxious, both to the clergy and to the smaller Roman Catholic occupiers. To adopt this motion, therefore, would not be acting in accordance with the recommendation of the committee [hear, hear].

A suggestion was, indeed, thrown out by one of the witnesses, but it was not adopted by the committee, that this charge might be borne by "some Government fund—say the consolidated fund" [a laugh]. There was no other Government fund. The hon. member adverted to the debt due to the Government from the Commissioners, and thought the Government would do well to abandon it, and let the amount be available for the proposed object: but that was only a circuitous mode of charging the consolidated fund [hear, hear], and would not be in accordance with the recommendation of the committee [hear, hear]. It was desirable, no doubt, to find a substitute; but the circumstances contemplated by the committee did not exist [hear, hear].

Mr. M. POWELL, Mr. HUME, and Mr. MONSELL, supported the original motion.

Mr. NAPIER explained the origin and nature of this tax, which, he observed, was a very different charge from what was ordinarily supposed.

Mr. KROOK, in supporting the motion, contended that the Government, having admitted this to be a grievance, were bound to find a substitute.

Mr. COWAN expressed his satisfaction at hearing the Right Hon. Baronet admit the obnoxious nature of the tax, but felt much disappointed so little progress had been made in removing it. If the Government desired to possess the confidence of the people of Scotland, they would, without further delay, proceed to inquire into the annuity tax, which was so grievous to the people of Edinburgh particularly, and see that a prompt remedy was applied. He was prepared to vote with the hon. member for Cork ["Divide, divide"].

Colonel RAWDON remarked that the hon. and learned gentleman (Mr. Napier) had, with all the skill of a lawyer, endeavoured to lead away the House from the question, and brought them off to those who paid the tax in the reign of Charles II. But the question was, who paid the taxes now? [hear, hear.] Those gentlemen who had signed Lord Glengall's manifesto, and held out hopes to the people of Ireland of removing many grievances, had an opportunity now of redressing a serious wrong without injury to the Church. Means would soon be found to pay the ministers. He must give his vote in favour of the original motion.

The House divided on the original question—"That this motion be now put;" and resolved, by 96 to 76, that the motion should not be put.

PROTECTION OF COLONIES AGAINST TRANSPORT CONTAMINATION.

Mr. ADDERLEY then brought forward the following motion:—

That leave be given to bring in a bill to repeal that part of the Act 5 George IV. which empowers her Majesty, with the advice of her Privy Council, to appoint any places in her Majesty's dominions for the transportation of felons and others under sentence of punishment.

Mr. Adderley avowed that his measure was suggested by the occurrences at the Cape of Good Hope. At present the Crown possesses the power of selecting places for the reception of convicts by order in Council; a power which his bill proposed to revoke, and leave in the hands of Parliament. It is true that the attempts to convert the Cape of Good Hope into a penal colony have been abandoned, but such attempts have been made four times; the Cape is still subject to military transportation; and other colonies are exposed to the attempts which have been made on the Cape. If Guernsey and Jersey

are protected by their proximity to France, there is no such protection for Jamaica, Ceylon, or Mauritius. He had heard it said out of doors that his motion would trench on the Royal prerogative; but there is no question of the prerogative. The practice of transportation is unknown at common law, and is regulated by statute; and one of the disastrous influences hanging over the colonies is the uncertainty on the matter.

Sir GEORGE GREY insisted that the discretion left to the Crown is necessary to carry out sentences inflicted under the criminal law. He denied that the Cape had been made a penal settlement merely because convicts had been sent there: convicts are sent to Gibraltar, and yet that is not a "penal settlement." The very evils ascribed to convict transportation require a wide dispersion of the convicts, rather than their aggregation in particular colonies. Until transportation be abolished, therefore, it is desirable not to restrict that dispersion; and though members who sit at quarter-sessions would know how clamorous magistrates are for sentences of transportation to relieve the county gaols, Sir George did hope that the category of offences for which the punishment is inflicted would be still further reduced.

Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH avowed that his desire was to abolish transportation altogether, as bad in itself and odious to the colonies. He showed how dangerous it is to the colonial empire to provoke that kind of resistance which has prevailed at the Cape of Good Hope and is threatened in New South Wales. The colonies had been taught the wickedness of transportation by the report of the Select Committee of 1837, which disclosed the crime existing in New South Wales, and was sent out to the colonies: that report was signed by Lord John Russell, Sir George Grey, Lord Howick, Mr. Hawes, Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Charles Buller, and Lord Ebrington. When such statements as that report contained were made on such high authority, did the House think that the colonies were likely to submit without a struggle to the evils of transportation?

In the debate which followed, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL insisted that the bill would be a direct violation of the prerogative of the Crown, as transportation was originally a commutation of capital punishment, and the Crown appointed the place of exile. [Mr. LAW, who opposed the bill, disputed this point.] Sir John also contended, that in the event of differences like that of the Cape, procedure by act of Parliament would not leave open the way for retraction and conciliation which had enabled Government to back out of the difficulty. The bill was also opposed by Lord JOHN RUSSELL and Mr. STANFORD: it was supported by Mr. AGLIONBY and Mr. HUME.

On a division, the motion was negatived, by 110 to 32.

LOANS TO IRISH UNIONS.

On Friday night the House of Commons went into Committee of the whole House, on the "Distressed Unions Advances and Repayment of Advances" (Ireland); and

Lord JOHN RUSSELL made a proposal for consolidating the debts and enlarging the indulgence of time to distressed unions. He made a long statement on the condition and prospects of Ireland, citing various reports and official communications. He represented Ireland as undergoing a great change, brought about in the first instance by the failure of the potato crop, but facilitated by the great productiveness of last summer. There is an increasing disposition to hire land and to improve it. Crime has decreased. So has pauperism: within the last four months there has been a gross decrease in the amounts of poor relief of £185,000; the persons receiving out-door relief have decreased in number from 524,284 in January 1849, to 118,940 in January 1850. In the distressed unions the amount expended for in-door relief has decreased from £18,206 in December 1848, to £14,982 in December 1849: out-door relief, from £28,868 to £6,048; other expenses, from £18,719 to £16,093; number of paupers, from 297,918 to 147,397. The loans and advances, repayment of which is now due from Ireland, including a balance of £1,130,000 granted for building work-houses in 1839, amount, in the gross, to £4,483,000. In the more distressed unions, about thirty in number, there is an amount of debt due to contractors during the famine, for food, clothing, &c., and in some cases payment has been pressed so severely that the beds of persons in the infirmary have been taken from under them: these debts amounted, at the end of December last, to £270,000; and some other expenses are estimated at £30,000. These sums make the total liabilities £4,783,000. Under the Rate-in-Aid Act, of £250,000, to be repaid out of the rate-in-aid, £150,000 has been repaid, and it is probable that the other amount will be forthcoming. Lord John proposed to advance the £300,000 to meet the debts for the distressed unions; to convert the other debts, in places where the pressure of the poor-law is strongly felt, into consolidated annuities; and to allow forty years for the repayment by annual instalments, with interest where it is named by previous acts of Parliament, without interest where it is not so named. Lord John moved resolutions in that sense.

The resolutions were agreed to at once; but a debate arose on the question that they be reported. Some Irish members complained, with Mr. GRATTAN, that the relief was not enough; others, with Mr. MONSELL, expressed grateful satisfaction. Mr. BRIGHT stood up for a more rigid and just administration of relief; and pointed to instances, in the Unions of Cleeveden, Ballinrobe, and Castlebar, where landowners, and even county members, are open

defaulters in the payment of poor-rates, and resort to various devices for the evasion of the bailiff. Several Irish members expressed great anger at this charge, and called for names; but they were not given. Mr. BRIGHT said he had taken his information from the Union-books.

The resolutions were ordered to be reported on Monday.

THE IRISH COURT OF CHANCERY.

On the order for the second reading of the Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill,

Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER explained that Mr. Turner had not opposed reform in Chancery, but had only taken exception to the details of the bill. Mr. STUART, however, made a vehement attack upon the measure itself, in a slighting and contemptuous manner, which drew upon him very dammatory retorts. He declared that there were not four men in the House who knew much upon the subject, professed to be uncertain whether he knew the Irish Lord Chancellor's name, declared that the measure would save neither time nor expense, but the reverse; avowed that it was unnecessary, as all that it proposed to do could be done by the Lord Chancellor of Ireland in the shape of rules; and moved that the bill be read a second time on that day six months. Mr. HEADLAM denied that the Irish Lord Chancellor had the power ascribed to him. Mr. KROGH caused considerable laughter by the manner in which he enlightened Mr. Stuart on the subject of Chancery administration and practice in Ireland. Mr. COCKBURN followed up this retaliation, and it was continued with undiminished effect by Sir JOHN ROMILLY. Sir John warned the House against allowing lawyer after lawyer to get up and tell members that they were "incapable of understanding the subject." If a legal proposition cannot be reduced to the plain principles of common sense, comprehensible to persons of ordinary intelligence, the fault is, that it is a system invented to create costs, and not to promote the due administration of justice. The bill, Sir John stated, had been submitted to the Lord Chancellor and the Master of the Rolls in Ireland, who approved of its principles and object—the details might be improved.

Mr. STUART wished to withdraw his motion, but he was not allowed to do so; and the amendment was negatived without a division. The second reading then took place.

COLLISION AT DOLLY'S BRAE.

The House of Lords, on Monday, presented an aspect of unwanted animation. Shortly after five o'clock the benches were occupied with a numerous array of peers, including the principal members of the opposition, as well as nearly all the Cabinet Ministers who belong to the Upper House. The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, who had come over on purpose to attend the debate, took his seat early, and was warmly greeted by many noble lords. Among others, a welcome of the utmost apparent cordiality was exchanged with his political antagonist of the evening, Lord STANLEY, who, after the presentation of a few petitions, rose to make the motion for which he had caused their lordships to be summoned, relative to the affair at Dolly's Brae.

Lord STANLEY moved for copies of correspondence between the chief magistrate of Armagh and the Executive Government in June and July, 1848, and also for a variety of papers relating to the collision which took place in Castlewellan in July last. In doing so his lordship observed that he should feel it his duty to bring matters of importance under their lordships' notice, as affecting the due administration of justice, the independence of the magistracy, and the public conduct of persons in high office. While reviewing the conduct of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, which in this transaction he considered erroneous, he was ready to admit that the noble Earl had been actuated by a desire to perform his duty for the welfare of the country. He should also have to impugn the conduct of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland in having permitted his office to be degraded into a purely ministerial office, and having abandoned the magistracy, which he was bound to protect. After expressing his disapprobation of party processions in Ireland either on one side or another—a feeling which he knew Lord Roden shared—and stating his belief that the Orangemen were in the main loyal and religious people, he proceeded to describe in detail the circumstances of the unfortunate collision which occurred last year at Dolly's Brae. He contended, that neither the justices nor the stipendiary magistrates had reason to believe that the procession was illegal, or thought to be illegal by the Government. He afterwards referred to the correspondence between the chief magistrate of Armagh and the Irish Government, with the view of showing that it was calculated to lead the magistrates to the conclusion, that Orange processions were not illegal. He complained of the garbled nature of the report given by Mr. Berwick of the evidence taken before the Commission of Inquiry; and put it to the Government whether, in 1848, they did not rejoice in the demonstration of the force and numbers of the Orangemen, who were then entrusted with arms by the command of Sir E. Blakeney. With respect to Mr. William Beers, there might be a *prima facie* case for his removal from the commission of the peace, but Mr. F. Beers was most anxious to prevent any collision: he gave information to the inspector of the police; by the latter he was requested to be on the spot, and for being on the spot he was summarily dismissed from the commission. Mr. Berwick's commission was more liable to the suspicion of illegality than the procession; and some of the facts testified to by the witnesses were not, as Lord STANLEY contended, fairly represented by Mr. Berwick. Referring to the presence of Lord Roden at the Castlewellan

petty sessions when informations were preferred arising out of the collision, he maintained that though it might have been discreet for Lord Roden to have been absent, yet his attendance in the ordinary discharge of his duty formed no vindication for his removal from the commission of the peace; and it likewise appeared, from the evidence in support of the informations, that the magistrates exercised a sound judgment in refusing the informations. He considered that the Lord Chancellor of Ireland had acted unconstitutionally in summarily dismissing magistrates simply at the dictation of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, and this proceeding had created a feeling among the magistrates that their position was dependent on the caprice of the political chief of the day; had irritated, by the dismissal of magistrates of irreproachable character, a most loyal body; and had called forth expressions of sympathy and respect in favour of Lord Roden. In conclusion, he stated that he abstained from moving a direct vote of censure, because he wished that this great constitutional question should be kept apart from any party conflict.

The Earl of CLARENCE hoped that the circumstances of his having come from Ireland in order to defend an act of the Executive Government would not be converted into a precedent. He appeared in his place because, understanding that he had been challenged to attend, he feared his absence might lead to misconstruction. After stating that he had always been anxious to prevent party processions in Ireland, the noble Earl proceeded to say that with respect to the particular procession last year at Castlewellan, every precaution was taken by the Government for the preservation of the peace, military and police being sent to that place. Party processions not being *ipso facto* illegal, it must be left to the magistrates to determine at what period it is necessary to interfere; but when magistrates pre-arrange a meeting which must lead to danger, and when, upon that danger being pointed out, they do nothing to prevent it, such magistrates must be deemed deserving of dismissal. With respect to Mr. Berwick, Lord STANLEY had acted severely and unjustly. Among the eminent men at the Irish bar none was more qualified than Mr. Berwick to conduct the inquiry. When Mr. Berwick's report came to his hand he read it with regret. It received the anxious deliberation of the Government, who agreed with him on the necessity of dismissing Lord Roden and certain other magistrates from the commission of the peace. That was a painful act to him, having been honoured with the noble lord's friendship; but his sense of duty was superior to all other feelings, and ever since he had charge of the government of Ireland it had been his great object to render the law in Ireland a reality, and to inspire confidence in the impartial administration of justice. With respect to the conduct of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, he explained that he had sent Mr. Berwick's report to that noble and learned Lord, not with a command, but with a recommendation to dismiss certain magistrates from the commission; and if the Lord Chancellor had differed with him, it would have been open to the learned Lord to have abstained from taking that step. The Lord Chancellor, however, entirely concurred in the propriety of the course recommended, and he read a letter from the learned Lord expressing that concurrence. He took occasion to point out that the newspaper reporter of the evidence given before Mr. Berwick's Commission, on whom Lord STANLEY relied, could not be depended on. In conclusion, he referred to a document signed by a member of their Lordships' House, purporting that he (Lord Clarendon) had, in the hour of peril, after the French revolution of 1848, accepted the services of the Orangemen of Dublin, and then basely deserted them; but the fact was, that an address from that body, offering their services, as loyal individuals, for the preservation of peace at that excited period, had neither been received nor answered by him, because they refused to withdraw certain objectionable resolutions passed at the meeting at which the address was adopted. He regretted that this question had been brought forward, as it had a tendency to keep up irritating feelings, but he anticipated that the passing of a bill now before the other House, to put a stop to party processions, would be attended with the most beneficial results. He would give no opposition to the motion, but would make some addition to the papers moved for.

The Earl of RODEN thanked Lord STANLEY for giving him this opportunity of addressing the House in reference to the transactions connected with the procession in Castlewellan, for he was anxious to defend his public and private honour. He could not help feeling that he had been harshly dealt with by the Government. The evidence against him was drawn from the one-sided report of Mr. Berwick. He referred to the loyal conduct of the Orangemen of Ulster in 1848, which enabled the Government to withdraw all the military from Ulster, and to crush the incipient insurrection. With respect to the procession last year in Castlewellan, he had no reason to suppose, previous to its occurrence, that Lord Clarendon (whom he had seen about a month before) thought it illegal; and he believed that the brave men who composed the procession would have gone quietly home if they had not been cowardly and brutally attacked. He repelled the charges made against him in Mr. Berwick's report; and with reference to his attendance at the petty sessions alluded to, he declared that he went there to do justice; but he could not countenance charges not substantiated by the evidence. He had always as a magistrate done justice to all parties to the best of his ability.

The Earl of WINCHILSEA addressed the House, and condemned Mr. Berwick's Commission as unconstitutional.

Lord BROUGHAM could not concur in the proposition that Lord Roden had been unjustly and arbitrarily used. A meeting, legal in its inception, might become unlawful by its assuming a character calculated to lead to a breach of the peace; and the purpose for which this procession met in Castlewellan rendered a collision extremely probable. He believed that upon the whole substantial justice had been done in this case.

After some observations from the Marquis of CLANRICARDE, who declared that Lord Clarendon had the entire approbation of the Government for the manner in which he had acted in the affair brought under the notice of the House, and from Lord ABINGER, who stated that he had not been able to collect why Lord Roden was dismissed from the commission of the peace,

Lord STANLEY replied, and his motion was agreed to, and their lordships adjourned.

THE NEW AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION.

In the House of Commons, upon the order of the day for the second reading of the Australian Colonies' Government Bill,

Mr. SCOTT moved that it be postponed until further papers on the subject had been produced, and took occasion to condemn the scheme of the Constitutions proposed for these colonies, especially the single Chamber, which, he contended, was not preferred to a double Chamber by the colonists, according to the papers now before the House.

Mr. LABOUCHERE, after alluding to the fact of Mr. Scott's being retained as paid agent for Port Phillip, denied that he represented accurately the opinions of the Australians. He said the general principle of this measure was to enlarge the power of the colonies to frame constitutions for themselves. He admitted, that the papers did not show that it was the deliberate opinion of the colonists that permanently a single Chamber was better than a double Chamber; but there was an almost universal desire on their part to have power to choose a constitution for themselves, instead of having a constitution sent out to them cut and dried. As to the composition of the Chamber, whilst it remained single there should be a counterpoise in it to the democratic element.

Mr. ROMBUCK objected to the general principle of the bill, as expounded by Mr. Labouchere, which divested Parliament of its power of framing constitutions for the colonies. He wanted the House to plant at once liberal institutions there, which would spare the colonists the agony of working out a scheme of government. Of all the abortions of an incompetent Administration, this he considered to be the greatest: he defied any person to understand the bill, without the greatest care and legal knowledge. A ready-made constitution had been sent out by the Government to South Africa; why, then, could not Parliament send out a ready-made constitution to Australia? The scheme of a single Chamber, so constituted, was a new-fangled attempt to lodge power in a small body in the colonies. The purpose of the bill was really to perpetuate the power of the Colonial Office, the interference of which had been, from the first, the source of discontent and mischief.

Lord J. RUSSELL accused Mr. Roebuck of errors in constitutional principles, history, and facts. The new-fangled constitution of which he spoke with so much contempt was that already existing in New South Wales, and if the colonists had disapproved that constitution, and had desired a double Chamber, the Committee of Privy Council, to whom questions of this magnitude were always referred, would have considered the proposition. The colonists said they did not want an immediate change—they desired time for consideration. If Parliament had attempted to frame an Upper Chamber, it might not have met the wishes of the colonists. Was it not better, as the bill of last session had been approved by the great mass of the people, to pass a measure founded on the same principles, leaving the changes to be settled by them hereafter? Lord John pointed out the embarrassments and evils attending a different course of proceeding, and defended the Colonial Office—the bugbear of Mr. Roebuck—which was an organ for the exercise of the power of the Crown, and which never withheld its sanction in matters concerning the internal benefit of the colonies.

Mr. F. PEEL said, the main principle of the bill had his hearty assent, namely, that popular representation was an essential element in our colonial institutions. He owned, however, that he had a predilection for a double Chamber; he thought the legislative power in the colonies should be shared between two branches, mutually controlling each other. He did not maintain, however, that Parliament would be justified in legislating upon abstract notions, or even upon the conclusions of experience, in opposition to the expressed wishes or the peculiar circumstances of a colony; but he did not admit that the colonists had expressed their wishes so clearly as to justify a departure from the established type of colonial constitutions. Mr. Peel referred to the sentiments recorded upon this point by the colonial legislatures and governments, as well as the people, whence he concluded that grounds of exception from the general rule of policy according to which colonial constitutions should be framed had not been made out. Similar considerations applied, in his opinion, to the structure of the proposed General Assembly.

Sir W. MOLSWORTH, agreeing in the principle laid down by Mr. Labouchere and Lord J. Russell, was far from concurring with them in the mode of carrying that principle into practice. He would give power to each colony to convene a constituent assembly elected by the people, to which should be delegated the function of framing a constitution.

The details of this bill would not be satisfactory to the colonists.

Mr. ANSTEE opposed, and Mr. MANGLES supported the bill.

Mr. HUME approved the principle of the bill, which was a healing and preserving measure; but he had objections to some of the details; and he recommended the Government to put the bill into such a shape that the colonists might know more clearly what their franchises and privileges were.

There was one exception in the bill with which he certainly could not concur—it was one which prevented the colonists from dealing with the property of the Church in the colonies. He felt as certain as that he was standing there, that this exception would prove the "bone of contention" to the colonies. Every other subject was proposed to be left to their discretion; and he really could not see why any exception should be made in this case, and he hoped to be able in committee to induce the Government to make some alteration in the measure with respect to this proposed exemption [hear].

Mr. HAWES admitted that, generally speaking, two Chambers were preferable to one; but the reason for departing from the principle in this case was, that where a colony had a representative Constitution, when a change was proposed the representative body should be consulted. The people of New South Wales were content with their present form of Constitution; this bill gave them the power to change it if they pleased; and would Parliament, in these circumstances, force a double Chamber upon them?

With respect to the Church arrangement, he believed that the existing one, speaking generally, was one which gave satisfaction to the colonies. The same which was named in the bill was that which at present stood in the colony, and all parties were equally protected by the exemption to which the honourable member for Montrose (Mr. Hume) had referred.

A general assent had been given in the colonies to the bill as it stood.

Mr. V. SMITH observed that all seemed to agree to disagree with a single Chamber; then why not have a double Chamber? The answer was, the colonists were satisfied with a single Chamber. But they were satisfied with what they could get, and if they could get a double Chamber, they would like it better. He objected to the general assembly: the introduction of the federal system was an attempt to establish a new principle, wholly uncalled-for.

Mr. ADDERLEY replied to Mr. Hawes, and attributed the imperfections of the bill to the fear of the Government to mark the line of demarcation betwixt Imperial and local functions in a colony.

Mr. MILNES considered that the Government, in the permissive part of the bill, had carried liberality to an unexampled extent.

Mr. WYLD claimed for the colonists, besides local representation, the right of representation in that House.

Mr. STANFORD, amidst signs of great impatience, reviewed the speech of Lord J. Russell on moving for leave to introduce the bill, declaring his opposition to the measure. [He proceeded, amidst constant interruption, cries of "Oh, oh," "Question, question," and laughter, to read extracts from Lord John Russell's speech, in proof of his assertion that the noble lord had, in his recent speech, avowed principles which had a direct tendency to sever the union between Great Britain and her colonies, but hardly a word was audible.] The hon. gentleman proceeded to say that he must appeal to the patience of the House [oh, oh]. He had only been twenty minutes speaking [oh, oh, and laughter], and he should only keep them ten minutes more [renewed laughter]. The noble lord had touched both upon the questions of emigration and transportation, but in neither case had he arrived at or indicated any practical conclusion. He ought to have shaded out the intended policy of Government on both of those important subjects [loud cries of "Question, question"].

The bill was then read a second time.

LAW OF LANDLORD AND TENANT IN IRELAND.

Sir WILLIAM SOMERVILLE then moved for leave to bring in a bill to provide compensation to tenants for improvements effected by them, in certain cases, and to amend the law of landlord and tenant in Ireland. He mentioned the various attempts which had previously been made to legislate for the above purpose. The bill which he now wished to bring in was in most material points the same as a bill he introduced in 1848. It was most simple and easy to comprehend; but he should not go into a detail of the measure, preferring that it should be in the hands of members. Among other clauses it contained provisions that ejectment for non-payment of rent should apply to tenants from year to year, and against the prevalent custom of carrying crops away on Sunday or by night.

Lord CASTLEREAGH said that if this bill went to destroy tenant-right in Ulster it would meet with the greatest hostility. He regretted the tenant agitation in Ireland, and still more that the Presbyterian clergymen were taking the lead in it, and he cited some of their language with great disapprobation, especially an expression of one of them, who had declared at a public meeting that "God had not only made his own people farmers, but had given them their farms in perpetuity."

Mr. MAURICE O'CONNELL expressed satisfaction at the prospect of the bill.

Colonel DUNNS expressed similar feelings, and hoped that the bill would be discussed when the majority of Irish members were present.

Sir W. SOMERVILLE said that the bill would not affect tenant-right in Ulster.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MINISTERS' MONEY (IRELAND).—The following is the minority of 76, who supported Mr. Fagan's motion on this subject, on Thursday last:

Aglionby, Henry A.	Greene, John	Pilkington, James
Anderson, Arthur	Grenfell, C. P.	Pinney, William
Armstrong, Sir A.	Hall, Sir Benjamin	Power, Nicholas
Barron, Sir H. W.	Harris, Richard	Rawdon, Colonel
Bass, M. T.	Hastie, Alexander	Salway, Colonel
Bouverie, Hon. E. P.	Herbert, H. A.	Scholefield, William
Bright, John	Heyworth, Lawrence	Scrope, G. P.
Brotherton, Joseph	Horsman, Edward	Seely, Francis
Brown, William	Hume, Joseph	Sheridan, R. B.
Castlereagh, Visct.	Humphrey, Ald.	Sidney, Alderman
Caufield, J. M.	Keating, Robert	Smith, J. B.
Clifford, H. M.	Keogh, William	Smythe, Hon. George
Cobden, Richard	Kershaw, James	Somers, J. P.
Corbally, M. E.	Langston, J. H.	Stanton, W. H.
Cowan, Charles	Lushington, Charles	Stuart, Lord Dudley
Drummond, Henry	McCullagh, W. T.	Sullivan, Michael
Ellice, Edward	McTaggart, Sir J.	Thickness, R. A.
Ellis, John	Meagher, Thomas	Thompson, Colonel
Evans, Sir De Lacy	McLquind, Viscount	Thornely, Thomas
Ewart, William	Moffat, George	Trelawny, J. S.
Fergus, John	Molesworth, Sir W.	Wall, C. B.
Fortescue, Hon. J. W.	Monsell, William	Walmsley, Sir Joshua
Fox, W. J.	Munta, G. F.	TELLERS.
Gibson, T. M.	Norreys, Sir D. J.	Fagan, W.
Grace, O. D. J.	O'Connor, Feargus	Power, Dr.
Granger, T. C.	Pearson, Charles	Grattan, Henry
	Perfect, Robert	

SMITHFIELD MARKET.—In the House of Commons, on Thursday, Mr. C. Lewis stated, in reply to Mr. MACKINNON, that the Commissioners appointed to conduct an inquiry relative to Smithfield Market were now holding communications with the city authorities, who were about to lay before them certain plans. When those plans had been received and considered the Commissioners would prepare their report.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—Mr. EWART obtained leave, on Thursday, to bring in a bill enabling town councils to establish public libraries and museums. He stated that the bill had the unanimous recommendation of the select committee of last session on public libraries; and he mentioned instances in which the want of such a measure had been felt. Subsequently, on the motion of Mr. EWART, the committee on public libraries was re-appointed.

DEFAT OF MINISTERS.—On the order of the day for going into committee on the Registrar's Office (Bankruptcy) Bill, on Friday, Mr. HENLEY moved to refer it to a select committee, objecting that the union of two sinecures would perpetuate one. After a brief debate, this amendment was carried, by 61 to 57; a result much cheered by the reforming Opposition.

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday, Lord BROUGHAM presented a bill for abridging the wording of acts of parliament; which was read a first time, and read a second time on Monday last.

Mr. FEARGUS O'CONNOR, on Monday, complained that an hon. member (alluding to Mr. Roebuck) had made a violent attack upon him in "another place." He wished to know if he could have any remedy? —The SPEAKER stated that the forms of the house afforded no means by which the subject could be brought on for discussion. Some laughter followed this formal announcement.

DENMARK AND THE DUCHIES.—Lord PALMERSTON stated that the Danish Government had acceded to the proposition for a renewal of the armistice, provided the terms would be faithfully observed by all the parties concerned. The German Parliament at Frankfort was the only power whose consent had not yet been given, but communications were exchanging and hopes entertained of their accession to the armistice being speedily announced.

GOVERNMENT NIGHTS.—On the proposition of Lord J. RUSSELL, that on the alternate Thursdays after April 11 orders of the day should have precedence of all notices of motion, Mr. HUME moved an amendment, which Mr. SPOONER and Mr. GIBSON supported, on the ground that Government was monopolising the time of the house, and curtailing the privileges of private members.—Sir G. GAY said a few words in explanation, and the house divided: Against the amendment, 140; for, 38; majority, 102.

ARMY AND ORDNANCE COMMITTEE.—Lord SEYMOUR, Mr. Secretary at War, Mr. HUME, Colonel ANSON, Mr. WALTER, Sir William Molesworth, Lord CHARLES WELLESLEY, Sir James GRAHAM, Mr. WILLIAM MILES, Mr. COBDEN, Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT, Mr. JOHN GREENE, Mr. EDWARD ELLICE, Mr. VERNON SMITH, and Mr. BANKES.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES' COMMITTEE.—Mr. EWART, Lord SEYMOUR, Mr. DISRAELI, Sir Harry VERNEY, Mr. CHARTERIS, Mr. BUNBURY, Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER HAMILTON, Mr. BROTHERTON, Mr. MILNES, Mr. CORNEWALL LEWIS, Sir JOHN WALSH, Mr. THICKNESS, Mr. MACKINNON, Mr. KERSHAW, and Mr. WYLD.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.—Mr. SMITH, of Deanton, has made an important discovery in the treatment of the fleeces of sheep, whereby the fleece of the living animal is rendered repellent of water by a simple and cheap process; so that the sheep is defended from the pernicious effects of wet, whilst the natural emanations from the body remain unchecked, and the growth and quality of the wool are improved. It is presumed that the mode of treatment will lead to the successful introduction of the Spanish sheep, and the Alpaca, which are known to have suffered from the prevalence of wet weather in this country. Mr. SMITH has secured patents for the United Kingdom and the colonies.

By a return just issued from the Post-office, it appears that the total number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom during the past year was 337,600,000, while the total in 1839, under the old system, was 76,000,000.

LAW AND POLICE.

THE NATIONAL LAND SCHEME.

An action for libel, brought by Mr. FEARGUS O'CONNOR against Mr. BRADSHAW, the proprietor of the *Nottingham Journal*, was begun in the Court of Exchequer on Thursday. The alleged libel, which was circulated in the form of a handbill, was to the following effect:—"The subscribers to the National Land Company and the admirers of FEARGUS O'CONNOR, Esq., M.P. for Nottingham, who has wheedled the people of England out of £100,000, with which he has bought estates and conveyed them to his own use and benefit, and all who are desirous to witness the final overthrow of this great political impostor, should order the *Nottingham Journal*, in which his excessive honesty in connexion with the Land Plan has been, and will continue to be, fearlessly exposed."

The usual evidence as to proprietorship, &c., having been given in,

Mr. ROEBUCK, who appeared for the defence, began by stating that from his own addresses, signed with his name and published in his own paper, Mr. O'CONNOR would be proved guilty of all that was charged in this handbill. He was the boasted promoter and originator of a plan by which working people were induced to subscribe their hard-earned savings with a prospect of throwing up their employments in town, and enjoying all the felicities of rural life. According to Mr. O'CONNOR's scheme, the whole face of the country was to be changed, and persons whose lives, to use his own words, "were embittered and shortened by excessive and ill-requited toil," were to be placed in peace, comfort, and independence, as freeholders on their own land. In conjunction with his land scheme, Mr. O'CONNOR proposed to establish what was called a Labour Bank, and through the instrumentality of these two agencies, he promised to give those who subscribed to his plan comfortable houses, land, and money. Mr. ROEBUCK then entered into the details of Mr. O'CONNOR's plan, and stated that great numbers of the working classes had been seduced to enter into this absurd scheme. From Mr. O'CONNOR's own statement, it appeared that no less than 70,000 persons had subscribed; and Mr. O'CONNOR held out that all those persons were to be located on the lands purchased with the money subscribed by the people to this land company, but not a foot of this land belonged to the company. It was all Mr. O'CONNOR's, and he had, in fact, been trading upon the ignorance of mankind. The defendant charged him with dishonesty in connexion with the land scheme; and there never was a juster charge, for he had held out to the poor and the ignorant promises which never could be fulfilled, and which he who made them well knew could not be fulfilled. Mr. O'CONNOR now complained of the terms in which the placard containing the alleged libel was framed. One would think that Mr. O'CONNOR himself had never uttered coarse or violent language, and that when he wrote his writings were always wrapped in perfume. Referring to the *Northern Star*, however, and in the papers therein contained signed FEARGUS O'CONNOR, it would appear that the writer was as foul-mouthed as he was audacious. The learned counsel here read numerous extracts from the *Northern Star*, in which parties were addressed as "ruffians," "beasts," "dirty base hirshlings of the press," and other epithets of a similar character.

The second count went on to state that in the result, out of all the thousands who had been deluded into paying their subscriptions, and which the plaintiff himself estimated at 70,000, about 227 persons only were located on the several estates purchased by Mr. O'CONNOR. These were designated as "fortunate allottees"; but, as might have been expected, their circumstances were made much worse by the change. They were persons for the most part accustomed to work at various manufactures, unacquainted with agricultural pursuits, and it was impossible they could live and support their families upon the land allotted to them. It was proposed to call several of these fortunate allottees before the jury, who would hear from their own lips how much they were injured by giving ear to the promises of Mr. O'CONNOR. As to the residue of the 70,000 persons who had subscribed, they had lost their hard-earned money; but undoubtedly they were far better off than the "fortunate allottees," who had given up their homes and employment to attempt to procure a livelihood by an occupation for which they were wholly unfit. This was the gigantic delusion which the defendant, as editor of a newspaper, thought himself justified in exposing. If there was any occasion in which those who had the conduct of such an organ as the public press were called upon to act boldly and unflinchingly, it was in such a case as the present. Now, why did Mr. FEARGUS O'CONNOR come forward at this time and complain of being libelled? It was said the defendant called him "a political impostor." Mr. O'CONNOR had often been called a political impostor before, and justly so. It was not this that annoyed him. The fact was, the working people themselves began to see through the scheme. They felt that none of the glowing promises

held out to them by the plaintiff were realized. The sources from which he derived the means of imposition were rapidly drying up. This trial, he was satisfied, would render the falsehood and misrepresentations by which the people were gulled clear and palpable. The jury in this case could give but one verdict—a verdict to protect society from such schemes as those put forth by the plaintiff. He had no fear that the jury would paralyze the energies of the press by giving a verdict against his client. Mr. O'Connor as a lawyer knew the National Land Company was an illegal association, and could not legally purchase landed property. He knew he could not fulfil the promises held out by him. The learned serjeant who conducted the plaintiff's case had thrown out that the defendant's object was to increase the circulation of his paper. Now, it so happened that the charge had been made against Mr. O'Connor, that one of his objects in getting up the land scheme was to advance the circulation of the *Northern Star*, the organ of the land society. Every week announcements were made of the proceedings of the company in that paper. Mr. O'Connor was charged with making a profit of this, as the subscribers to the land scheme naturally looked to the *Northern Star* as the only source of information respecting that in which they were so much interested. In a letter addressed by Mr. O'Connor in the *Northern Star* to one who was in every sense a "gentleman"—Mr. Albany Fonblanche, of the *Examiner*, Mr. O'Connor answered the charge, that the land scheme was subservient to the increased circulation of his paper, by giving a detailed account of the annual increase of the circulation, from which it appeared that the circulation had gone on rapidly increasing from the time the land scheme was started. The circulation had increased, he stated, from 6,000 to 21,000 a week, within a period of little more than two years after the National Land Company was started. There was only one other point to which he would allude. Mr. O'Connor repeatedly stated, that though he had not yet transferred the estates purchased by the subscribers' money to trustees for the use of the society, he intended to do so. Why, he asked, did he not do so in the first instance? Why put £100,000 of other people's money in jeopardy? Suppose Mr. O'Connor died to-night. His personal representative would take this property. If he meant to deal fairly with it, and that those to whom it belonged should benefit by it, why not put it out of danger, in the names of trustees, long since? His omission to do so justified the suspicions which were felt with respect to his intention, and justified the allusion contained in the placard to his "excessive honesty in connexion with the land scheme."

It was admitted that the plaintiff is the sole proprietor of the *Northern Star* newspaper, and the extracts referred to in the speech of the defendant's counsel were first put in and read. The printed rules of the National Land Company were also read.

The Assistant-Registrar of Joint Stock Companies was then sworn, and produced the various documents registered at that office. The company was never completely registered, but was provisionally registered in October, 1846, and the provisional registration was renewed and continued, until the registrar refused to renew it on the ground that the company was illegal.—Cross-examined: There was a *mandamus* applied for in the Queen's Bench against the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies for refusing to register the Land Company, and that proceeding is now depending. There is no deed of settlement registered.

Three witnesses, all of whom were comprehended in the class called "fortunate allottees," and who, it appeared, were located on the Snigg's End Estate, were then examined.—We extract one or two points of their evidence.

John Hudson, a frame-work knitter, in which trade he used to earn with his family about 20s. a week, and who thought himself a lucky member in being drawn in the Land Company as an allottee, received no directions how to cultivate the land. "I received £5 to carry us to Snigg's End. I was much delighted at the first sight of that place, but I soon found out that I had been deceived. O'Connor had promised that the land would be cultivated properly, and that we should find it quite a paradise. I worked the land so long as I had money, but before Christmas I was obliged to go to another place to work to earn support. O'Connor deceived me. He did not put anything in the land, as he had promised, but potatoes. I had two acres, which were enclosed from the highway only. The appearance of the place at last was enough to frighten a man back again. I put what I could into the ground, and continued to do so as long as I had any means to do it. My boy and I worked from light to dark sometimes. I could not live upon what the land produced, but I worked for others, and cleaned clocks for a subsistence." When he and others subsequently told O'Connor that many of them had sold their allotments, as they could not live, he said that they were wrong, and he would have made soup of his shoe sole before he would have done so. "I have paid no rent, nor were any of us to pay what is called rent; but O'Connor told us we were to pay 4 per cent. on the outlay as a rent-charge. He charged me £8 10s. a year for my two acres." Another witness named Cleland, a Scotchman, and a hand-loom weaver, of Glasgow, had an allotment also at Snigg's End. He said: "Mine was arable land, but it had not been cropped for some years previous. When I saw it in June it could not be planted. I had three acres, and they were all ploughed, with only half an acre of potatoes, when I went. There had not been any manure in it, and

therefore for the one ploughing and the half acre of potatoes they charged me £7 10s. The disease seized the potatoes, so that they never came to maturity. I have been compelled to go and work to obtain the means of my family's living. I am living at Snigg's End now. We have had a very hard time of it. We have had bread sometimes, and at other times we have not been able to get any. I have toiled with my son the whole day, and we have had nothing but turnip soup."

The Court then adjourned to the following day, when the case was resumed, and several more witnesses examined, who gave evidence of a similar character to the preceding. The remainder of the day was devoted to the examination of witnesses with respect to the actual condition of the Land Company, its rules, and the state of its financial affairs. The case was finally adjourned to Saturday.

On Saturday, the trial was resumed; and did not close till late in the day.

Mr. Roebuck addressed the jury on behalf of the defendant, in reply to the additional evidence offered by the plaintiff. The chief point urged was, that Mr. O'Connor was himself virtually the manager, treasurer, and banker, of the Company, and the legal possessor of the £112,000 subscribed, or estates purchased therewith; to which, in the event of his death, no claim could be established by the subscribers—the circulation of the *Northern Star*, which had risen from 6,000 to 21,000 weekly in a short time, was the motive of his boasted patriotic labours.

Mr. Serjeant Wilkins, after eulogizing the plaintiff, said, as to the "new light" which his learned friend, Mr. Roebuck, had thrown upon the law, that if Mr. O'Connor had suddenly dropped dead, his personal representative would be entitled to the estates, there was no foundation whatever for such an assertion. The mode in which the entire £112,000 had been expended, distinctly appeared in the evidence. First, the estates cost, in round numbers, £60,000. The cottages cost £28,600. Then "aid" money, putting in crops and clearing the land, &c., cost £4,260; making a total of £92,600. To which was to be added the expense of clearing the soil—making roads, the printing expenses, the sums paid to delegates and auditors when employed, law charges and stamps, &c. Why, when all those sums were paid away, as they had been, what surplus was there to find its way into Mr. O'Connor's pocket? When the whole of the accounts were gone into, it would be found that Mr. O'Connor was between £3,000 and £4,000 out of pocket. It was so found. It was possible Mr. O'Connor might have deluded himself in the ardour of his enthusiasm to accomplish a scheme which he thought calculated to raise the condition of the working classes. But although he propounded a scheme which did not prove capable of effecting all the objects contemplated, it did not follow that he had intentionally misled others or deceived himself, or that dishonesty should be imputed to him. It appeared by the evidence that nearly 300 poor families had been located, had received "aid" money and comfortable cottages, with their land partly cultivated, and not one shilling of rent demanded from them. What other society had done anything like that? He (Serjeant Wilkins) defied any one to show him a parallel case throughout the whole world. After referring to the advantages of spade husbandry, the learned counsel observed upon the extraordinary fact that although the subscribers amounted to 70,000 individuals, not more than four or five could be produced to express the least dissatisfaction at Mr. O'Connor's accounts, or with any part of the whole transaction. In 1847, Mr. O'Connor wrote a circular to every one of the depositors in the bank, stating that it should be separated from the land company in order to avoid the operation of the banking acts. He then announced that he should be personally responsible for the deposits, and that they should be refunded to any person who was dissatisfied with that arrangement. Not one of the 70,000 was found to avail himself of the offer, and large sums had since then been deposited. A great deal of stress had been laid upon that branch of the case, but the learned counsel opposite was manifestly surprised at the production of the circular stating all the facts, and announcing all the facts, so far back as August, 1847, to every depositor in the bank. Three of the most eminent counsel at the English bar had given their opinion that the company was legal; but, although it had been provisionally registered from October 1846, to October 1848, the registrar then refused complete registration, on the ground that the scheme was a lottery, and therefore illegal. The act regulating the registration of joint stock companies had been complied with in every particular, and the legality of the act of the registrar was now pending in the Court of Queen's Bench upon an application made by Mr. O'Connor for a *mandamus*.

The Chief Baron (Sir F. Pollock) then proceeded to sum up the evidence. After stating the pleadings, the learned Judge said:—There were three points of view in which the case might be considered—first, was this a malignant libel proceeding from bad motives? and was it false in fact—was it malicious in its intention? If so, then there could be no doubt but that the plaintiff would be entitled to a verdict, and to recover damages. The next was, had the defence been made out? If they entertained an opinion that the imputation did not go beyond what was intended, the plaintiff would be entitled to a verdict on the plea of not guilty, but the defendant would be entitled to a verdict on the plea of justification. There was a third and intermediate view; viz., assuming that Mr. O'Connor was actuated by no desire to act dishonestly, had he so conducted the

scheme and managed the details of it as to fairly give rise to the comments of a public journalist. If the scheme was of such a character as to lead the public to consider it an imposition, it was his duty to say that the plaintiff must take the consequences of his own acts, and submit to any fair public criticism which might be passed upon him. A few years since—in 1844—the Legislature had thought it necessary to pass an act for the purpose of the more effectually regulating joint-stock companies, and bringing them more directly within the range of the law—with a view to their legality. One of the first steps under the act was, that all joint-stock companies must be registered, and receive the certificate of the registrar appointed for that purpose. On registration, the names of all the officers and all the rules must be exhibited and filed. In 1846, in accordance with the provision of the act, this Land Company had been provisionally registered, and in the list of officers the name of Mr. Roberts, of Manchester, was set forth as the treasurer; notwithstanding that, prior to that period Mr. O'Connor had, in truth, become the treasurer. Now, most undoubtedly, Mr. O'Connor's name ought to have been registered upon that occasion, and it was extremely wrong that it had not been. The omission was a direct violation of the act of Parliament. It would seem from the evidence that the sum which had been expended in the purchase of estates was no less than £58,000. A witness of the name of Browne had proved that the "bank" had not been duly entered or returned to the Registrar's Office at the Stamp Office. That return or entry ought to have been made, and it had been proved that the estates had been purchased, and the accounts at the London Joint Stock Bank had been in the name of Mr. F. O'Connor personally. Of those matters there had been no satisfactory explanation given. Then it had been put forth that one James Knight had become the manager of the bank, whilst the evidence of that gentleman had gone to show that he had never accepted the appointment, because he did not like the concern; and yet, notwithstanding, his name had been subsequently issued to the world as the practical manager. There had been many other acts of a somewhat similar character. The society had been provisionally registered in October 1846, and again, in pursuance of the requirements of the act of Parliament, in October 1847; but when a subsequent application to renew the registering, or to make a complete registration, had been made in 1848, that application had been refused by the registrar, upon the ground that the company was in itself illegal, and therefore could not be registered. According to the prospectus, the company was to have a capital of £130,000, in 100,000 shares, at £1 6s. each. That being so, they would, when provisionally registered, have a right to receive 10s. a share, which would be somewhere about £650; and in point of law they had no right to receive one farthing more; but it had been given in evidence that no less a sum than £112,000 had been received. That was a proceeding which was clearly and unequivocally illegal. It was possible that Mr. O'Connor might have been ignorant of the precise nature of the law upon the subject, or that he might have overlooked the particular clause which had application to that particular matter; and, therefore, he might have acted with a perfectly honest intention. Such, however, was the fact—that the whole amount which could be legally received under the provisional registration was £650, and that, in truth, Mr. O'Connor had received £112,000. Moreover, it was further in evidence that, notwithstanding the refusal to completely register the company, Mr. O'Connor had gone on receiving money, a proceeding which manifestly and indisputably was illegal. Mr. O'Connor had not, in any of the proceedings at the registry office, been registered as the treasurer. As he in fact was the treasurer, it was his duty to tell the jury that Mr. O'Connor's name not having been so registered was a violation of the law. The jury must consider whether, in their opinion, this illegal act had been a wilful violation of the law on the part of Mr. O'Connor. Now, the company could not be completely registered—it could not be legally registered—because it professed to collect subscriptions, which were to be expended in the purchase of land, which land was to be divided amongst the subscribers by allotment. That course was clearly illegal. He (the Lord Chief Baron), therefore, now pronounced it as his opinion that the company—the "scheme" rather—for as it had not been completely registered, it had not assumed the legal character of a company—was indisputably illegal, and was so from its very commencement; indeed, from the moment of its inception. Thus very serious questions for consideration arose. Mr. O'Connor might have been uninformed either of the law affecting the question, or ignorant of its consequences; but the result was, every man, whether high or low, whether man of talent or in a state of ignorance, whether educated or not, every man who had paid his money for the purposes of this "scheme" had become a party to an illegal transaction; and it was a matter of considerable doubt whether any relief could be obtained in any court of law. So, also, if a suit had been commenced in a court of equity to call Mr. O'Connor to account, it would at once have been said that the subscribers had not come into court with clean hands; whilst that gentleman himself could have said—he did not for one moment intend to impute to Mr. O'Connor that he would have said so—that he was the trustee of these large funds which had been raised for an illegal purpose; and, therefore, as those suitors had been parties to an illegal transaction, they could not obtain redress. The personal honour and honesty of Mr. O'Connor might, and no doubt would, during his life-time, have led him to act honourably to the contributors, but how was it possible for

that gentleman to pledge himself for the honour and integrity of those who might come after him? It was evident that, with respect to the "bank," that concern, even in its most prosperous days, had never been a paying concern. Who, then, was to pay the losses? It had been said Mr. O'Connor; but it was clear that, when the two "schemes" were working together, the deficiency must have been supplied by the "Land Company;" but, when the two companies were separated, then the security of the land was altogether lost to the bank depositors. Now, although that "security" had thus been taken away, the parties in the "Land Company," as well as Mr. O'Connor himself, had still allowed the previous statement in the rules to stand as it had done. Nothing could be more improper; nothing could be more wrong. Supposing that gentleman were to become a bankrupt, every shilling in his bank, and every one of the estates which had been purchased in his name, would be laid hold of for the benefit of his creditors. This was a position which no man was justified in placing himself in. No man had a right to take such a monstrous responsibility upon him unprotected by the law. With respect to the estates, there was no man who had a legal title to them but Mr. O'Connor. Did then the jury think the justification of the libel was made out, or was the libel a wilful and malicious libel? If the latter, then the plaintiff would be entitled to a verdict; if the former, the defendant would be entitled to a verdict.

The jury retired, and having consulted together about twenty minutes, they returned a verdict for the defendant; and added, that "it was their wish to state their unanimous opinion, that the plaintiff's character stood unimpeached as regarded his personal honesty."

A verdict was entered for the defendant accordingly.

During the three days the trial lasted the court was densely crowded.

ROMANCE AT A POLICE COURT.—A gentleman, whose name did not transpire, but who described himself as a surgeon, residing at Ixworth, in Suffolk, related a romantic story at the Worship-street Police Court, on Wednesday. While travelling on the Eastern Counties Railway, about a month ago, an elegantly-dressed lady contrived to engage his attention, and, pleading some excuse on reaching the Shoreditch terminus, left a child, which had been travelling with her, in his arms, and was seen no more of. Attached to the dress of the child (which was only about two months old) was a letter containing two £10 notes, and conveying a brief intimation that the infant was the offspring of persons of the highest respectability, who would continue to contribute all that was requisite to ensure its comfort and proper maintenance, upon being addressed by advertisement in the public papers to that effect, and that the little charge would be ultimately reclaimed by its parents. Offers had been made to him by private friends to adopt the child, and a communication had reached him from some gentleman in Devonshire, who made a peremptory claim of the child and the property attached to it, alleging that he was empowered to do so by its own mother, although he produced nothing satisfactory in authentication of his assumed authority. Under these circumstances, he was totally at a loss how to act, and was therefore induced to come to the court to obtain the opinion of the magistrate as to the most advisable course to be pursued. Mr. Hammill, the magistrate, suggested that the best course to pursue would be to place the infant in the hands of the officers of the parish in whose district it had been abandoned. The applicant thanked the magistrate for his advice, "but it was pretty manifest, from his manner, that he was disinclined to adopt the suggestion."

A MODEL DECISION.—A person named Leggett, a leather-merchant, living at Bermondsey, was charged, at the Mansion House, on Wednesday, with grossly insulting a young lady whom he encountered in Leadenhall-street. The evidence proved his conduct to have been most disgusting and unmanly. The plea in defence was intoxication. Alderman Carden, after having conferred with Alderman Humphrey, said, my brother magistrate and I have very narrowly looked into all the circumstances of this case, and we concur in opinion that one of more gross indecency could not have been brought before us. We concur, too, in opinion that the disgusting words uttered by the defendant must have been habitual, and not the mere casual effusion of drunken brutality. The defendant: I assure you, sir, that I was so drunk as to have no idea of what took place. A friend and I had dined and taken four bottles of wine in the tavern near the spot. I had no notion of insulting the lady. Alderman Carden: You were not only able to run after and persecute her, but to attempt to escape when you found that persons were ready and determined to protect her, but you greatly aggravated your offence by repeating language unfit for any ears in the presence of one to whom as a man you were bound to offer succour and assistance instead of insult. We are perfectly aware that a sum of money as a penalty upon you would be considered of no importance. You manifested by your smiles and indifference, while the young lady was so modestly giving her evidence, that you felt very little for her, or for your offence against society, or apprehension as to the result of this investigation. But it happens as magistrates we have the power of inflicting a very disagreeable substitute for a pecuniary penalty, and we think that this is a most excellent opportunity of testing the efficacy of that power. Our sentence upon you, therefore, is, that for your vio-

lent and indecent conduct you be imprisoned seven days in the House of Correction [laughter]. The defendant was shocked at this judgment, and assured the Bench that he deeply regretted his conduct, and was willing to pay any penalty they might think proper to inflict. He repeated that he was most willing to be allowed to apologize to the lady and all other persons whom he might have offended. Alderman Carden said, the Bench did not consider it necessary to consult the lady at all upon the occasion, and certainly could not suppose that she would condescend to listen to the language of apology. The defendant was then taken off to the House of Correction. There were several gentlemen present who were ready to testify as to the high respectability of Mr. Leggett, but the aldermen said the case was disposed of. [This, says the *Examiner*, in an article on the subject, is all excellent. There are other police courts in which the defendant's expressions of regret after the unexpected sentence was passed would not have been contrasted with the insolent indifference of his demeanour when he thought that his purse was to exempt him from punishment for his brutality. The alderman had the sagacity to see that the defendant's sorrow was not sorrow at the unprovoked outrage he had committed against an unprotected woman, but sorrow that he had fallen into the hands of justice, and could not ransom his person from the House of Correction. . . . Gentlemen were of course ready to testify to the high respectability of the convicted defendant; but the honest and upright alderman simply intimated that the case was disposed of, and "highly respectable" ruffianism has to undergo its appropriate chastisement in the House of Correction. The City Magistracy is honoured by this example.]

GEORGE MATHEWS v. THE REV. JOHN DILL.—This case was heard before the Court of Queen's Bench, Dublin, on Monday week. The plaintiff held a situation as clerk in the Chief Secretary's Office, and is a Presbyterian and an elder of that church. In the Chief Secretary's office Mr. Mathews had been entrusted with the management of the *Regium Documentum*, and, it will be recollect, was commissioned to make a report on the state of the Presbyterian Church, which has frequently been spoken of in our paper. The action was for the publication of personal attacks upon Mr. Mathews, in the form of anonymous letters in the *Belfast News Letter* and the *Jersey Christian Record*. Mr. Martley, Q.C., appeared for Mr. Mathews. Mr. Whiteside, Q.C., on behalf of the defendant, contended that the defendant, being a member of the Presbyterian Church, was justified in replying to any report which reflected upon it. The learned gentleman also adverted upon the fact, that the plaintiff, though a member of a different congregation from that in Eustace-street, had applied to get a seat in the congregation, for the purpose of watching their proceedings, and testing their principles, and asked the jury that were a position in which a man seeking damages for a libel should be found? The jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict for the defendant.

THE CASE OF THE REV. B. ROE.—In the Insolvent Debtors' Court, on the 14th inst., the case of the Rev. B. Roe, who was minister of the Baptist Chapel at Clapham, was brought on for hearing. His application for protection was supported by Mr. Nicholls, and opposed by Mr. Sargood on behalf of Mr. Steele, under the following circumstances:—The insolvent had for some years been the minister of the above chapel, of which Mr. Steele was a deacon. The chapel has an endowment under the will of Mr. Alderman Atkins. The insolvent's predecessors had been authorized to incur an expenditure of about £700 upon the property constituting the endowment, and upon Mr. Roe becoming the minister, it was agreed that he should set apart £50 per year in liquidation of this debt. The payment had been regularly made until Mr. Steele had ceased to be a deacon, when a new arrangement was agreed upon, by which the insolvent gave his note of hand to Mr. Steele for £150. Upon this he had been sued, and the allegation was that he had vexatiously defended the action. His Honour said that Mr. Steele had hardly acted fairly towards the insolvent in suing upon the bill immediately after it had been given. The insolvent might have paid the amount by instalments. Under all the circumstances, he should grant protection.

A SWINDLING FOREIGNER.—A "Count" Von Wladislaw, a native of Hungary, Poland, France, or Germany, according to circumstances, has been playing the rogue at Birmingham and its vicinity. He lodged for a time at an inn as a Hungarian; offered the landlord £600 to go to Glasgow and get back some title-deeds from a woman to whom they had been given by a foolish young brother of the Count; but when he should have provided funds for the innkeeper's trip, the Count decamped without paying his bill. At divers places, the Count ordered steam-engines, iron boats, railway axles, and 350 tons of steel, for the use of foreign railways; thus he got the opportunity of discussing some bottles of wine: he tried to obtain a subscription for Hungarian refugees with one manufacturer, who offered a £5 note; the Count declined it, for he could give more himself; but the manufacturer did not make a larger offer. In another case, he wanted to borrow £5, on the pretence that he had lost his purse: the application only opened the manufacturer's eyes to the real character of his patron. At last the police got hold of the Count; but the magistrates decided that the evidence against him was not of a character to warrant his detention.—*Sheffield Independent*

COURT, OFFICIAL, AND PERSONAL NEWS.

THE COURT.—The Queen, Prince Albert, and the Royal Family, on Tuesday week, left Windsor for Buckingham Palace. Among her Majesty's visitors and guests have been the Duke of Wellington, the Lord Chancellor and Lady Cottenham, and Sir Francis and Lady A. Baring.

POLITICAL ENTERTAINMENTS are just now very frequent. On Saturday, Earl Grey had a grand dinner party at his new mansion in Carlton House-terrace. After the banquet, the Countess Grey received a very large party of the leading members of the nobility at an assembly—the first of a series about to be given by her ladyship. The Speaker of the House of Commons gave his second full-dress Parliamentary entertainment on Saturday last at his mansion in Eaton-square. The guests on this occasion included the leading members of the Opposition in the Lower House.

APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. Mansfield Parkins is appointed an unpaid attaché to the British Embassy at Constantinople. Aston Davoren, Esq., is appointed Puisne Judge of the island of St. Christopher, vice Piguet, deceased. Macnamara Dix, Esq., is appointed a member of the Council of Dominica.—*Observer*.

EXHIBITION OF THE INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS, 1851.—The Duchy of Cornwall (the Council of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales) have authorized the payment of a subscription of £250 in aid of the Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations.

SCOTCH REPRESENTATIVE PEERS.—Lord Blantyre succeeds the late Lord Airlie in the representative peerage of Scotland, and the present Earl of Airlie will be elected a representative peer in the room of the late Lord Colville.—*Weekly Chronicle*.

The *Times* says:—"We believe that it is no longer a secret, that it is her Majesty's gracious intention to create Mr. Jones Loyd a peer, by the title of Baron Overstone."

A CABINET COUNCIL was held on Saturday afternoon at the Foreign Office. The Council sat three hours.

METROPOLITAN SANITARY ASSOCIATION.—A Deputation from the Metropolitan Sanitary Association waited upon Lord John Russell, on Saturday, by appointment, at his official residence in Downing-street, for the purpose of presenting to her Majesty's Government, through the noble lord, the resolutions agreed to at the late meeting held in Freemasons' Hall, and of explaining the necessity of further measures to improve the condition of the metropolis. The Lord Bishop of London headed the deputation. Lord J. Russell said: I have listened with great attention to what your lordship has said upon this subject; and I am sure your lordship and the deputation will see that it is impossible for me to enter here into the particular views of the Government, or into a discussion upon any general measure. My noble friend Lord Carlisle has been in constant communication with me upon it, and certainly he does not think there can be any general measure which can comprehend all the subjects which comprise sanitary regulation; but he thinks it is more feasible to attempt by separate measures to meet the various evils that have occurred [hear]. With regard to a general measure, I should also say we must consider that in this country there is very naturally and properly great jealousy of any interference either with local rights or individual will and freedom from control, and that when you bring in a bill of 350 clauses, you find very great difficulty in contending for each of those clauses against the separate opposition that may be made to them. But I will only say this, with regard to the difficulties of the subject, that we will give our best attention to them; and I can assure your lordship and the deputation that her Majesty is deeply interested in this subject [hear, hear]. Lord J. Russell added, that the Government was in favour of separate measures rather than of one general measure.

TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.—**A GOOD EXAMPLE.**—A meeting was held in the Bankruptcy Court, Council Hall, on Monday evening, to form a society to promote the abolition of those taxes which, by reason of their restraining the action of the press, have been called taxes on knowledge; viz., the excise duty on paper, the newspaper stamp, and the duty on advertisements. The attendance was numerous. Mr. Alderman Schofield was called to the chair, and resolutions were unanimously adopted:—First, approving the proceedings of the newspaper stamp abolition committee, in London, declaring the mischievous effect of the duties in question, and resolving to form a society to promote their abolition; secondly, appointing a general committee, consisting of thirty-four, from whom the following executive committee was chosen:—Alderman Schofield; Councillors J. W. Smith, Matthews, Ironside, Oates, and Groves; and Messrs. H. Horner, R. Oiley, D. Walkinshaw, and C. Corbitt. Mr. Councillor Oates was chosen treasurer, and Mr. Creswick Corbitt, secretary. And thirdly, originating a requisition to the mayor to call a public meeting, to petition Parliament on the subject, the mayor having been communicated with, and expressed his readiness to comply with such a requisition. Mr. Councillor Matthews proposed that a subscription should be commenced for defraying the necessary expenses. He headed the list with £1, and in a few minutes the subscription reached £3 6s. In consequence of the adjournment of Mr. Milner Gibson's motion, the executive committee, at their meeting on Wednesday evening, resolved to delay the presentation of the requisition to the mayor for a few days.—*Sheffield Independent*

LITERATURE.

The Present Time. Latter-day Pamphlets. Edited by THOMAS CARLYLE. No. 1. London: Chapman and Hall.

SOME men live too long: too long alike for their influence and reputation. Those who would have been buried with reverent and grateful tears in their prime, have lived so to weary and dis-attach their admirers and disciples as to make it difficult heartily to render them their due for the worthier past time of their lives. This thought has arisen while reading the present pamphlet: and it is just because Thomas Carlyle has been for years a sort of household divinity with us—which we confess sadly now, but not ashamedly, for we yet perhaps may do battle for him and his—it is just for this reason that it has been a vexing of our soul to read these pages. They accredit the floating assertions, from one source and another, of his hopeless one-sidedness, his “inane” dis-courses for long mortal hours on doctrines which the freest and most patient friends can only call “most damnable.” After a sorrowful, but not surprised, reading of that *Frazer* paper on the Negro, we almost expected that there must soon be something more, and the praises of the whip be followed up by a glorification of *force*—of “genuine command,” which the “few wise” having taken, they should “defend the same, at their life’s peril, *against all men and devils*.”

It is mournful to see a man become a wretched parody on himself; and such Mr. Carlyle here appears to us. The ideas and phraseology are but the reproduction of his oldest materials. The only novelty is the mad violence with which he welds together brazen falsehoods and golden truths; but both the falsehood and the truth are old enough. The “shams”—the “true King”—the “Destinies”—the “Eternities”—and the rest of Mr. Carlyle’s *dramatis personæ*, are here in the familiar costume in which they have appeared on former occasions; and are doing the very thing which we are enjoined, by all means and any means, *not* to do—“play-acting, as at Drury-lane.” There is something very other than genuine in all this; Mr. Carlyle seems to distrust his thought, its worth, its depth—and so he resorts to “upholstery” and “pasteboard,” &c., and sends out his thoughts in a “grimacing dance,” attitudinizing and uttering cry and shout “monstrous, loud, blatant, inarticulate as the voice of chaos.” To which we also would say, “Had not you, too, better be gone?”—if ye stand here gibbering longer ye will get for your master “an exquisite ignominy.”

Yet it is not possible that such a man as Carlyle has nothing to say worth our hearing as to “the present time”—if only it *were said*, and not dimly, mistily, half-said. In this crude heap are things worth saying and worth pondering—which we fancy we understand and partly sympathize with: but the reader shall judge of the whole. There is little we have to say about the pamphlet: it cannot prove very mischievous, though it be not helpful; it has not anything sufficiently positive for that:—besides, no one reads Mr. Carlyle’s political diatribes for the sake of the practical truth to be got from them. Let the reader, then, study this diagnosis of the disease of the age, and the treatment proposed, and judge for himself of Mr. Carlyle’s social pathology.

We are asserted to live in “days of endless calamity, disruption, dislocation, confusion worse confounded.” There “must be days of universal new birth”—“a new world”—and the problem is, to get it. This present misery began in the reforms introduced into the Papal States, and was brought to its consummation by the “revolutions from end to end of Europe” in the year 1848, “one of the most singular, disastrous, amazing, and, on the whole, humiliating years the European world ever saw.” When it closed, there remained “no king in Europe,”—instead, there was *one* mob-president, M. Lamartine, “discovered to be properly a stump-orator, with nothing in him but melodious wind and soft soubrette, which he and others took for something divine, and not diabolic! Sad enough!” However, in the pressure of things, this balloon “collapsed in a sufficiently wretched manner before long:” evil signs abounded, “young men and almost children” were enthusiastic and hot in the struggle; and “Universal Democracy declared itself to be an inevitable fact,”—worst of all—“Democracy decides to *continue permanent*,” thereby certifying Mr. Carlyle that he has fallen “in an evil, heavy-laden, long-eared age.” The true position of this unhappy age he thinks he describes in counsels to it such as these:—

“The front wall of your wretched old crazy dwelling, long denounced by you to no purpose, having at last fairly folded itself over, and fallen prostrate into the street, the floors, as may happen, will still hang on by the mere beam-ends, and coherency of old carpentry, though in a sloping direction, and depend there till certain poor rusty nails and worm-eaten dovetailings give way: but is it cheering, in such circumstances, that the whole household burst forth into celebrating the new joys of light and ventilation, liberty and picturesqueness of position, and thank God that now they have got a house to their mind? My dear household, cease singing

and pealmodying; lay aside your fiddles, take out your work-implements, if you have any; for I can say with confidence, the laws of gravitation are still active, and rusty nails, worm-eaten dovetailings, and secret coherence of old carpentry, are not the best basis for a household!”

This is the best and clearest piece of writing in the pamphlet.—In the universal spread of “black Democracy,” Mr. Carlyle sees but one thing to be “piously thankful for,” and that is the “universal Bankruptcy of Imposture,” but, then, “it is sad enough that *Anarchy* is here!” But how will Democracy govern the world?

“Democracy (says he), once modelled into suffrages, furnished with its ballot-boxes, and such like, will itself accomplish the salutary universal change from Delusive to Real, and make a new blessed world of us by-and-bye? To the great mass of men, I am aware, the matter presents itself quite on this hopeful side. Democracy they consider to be a kind of ‘Government!’”

But, alas for him! this is not Mr. Carlyle’s way of construing the matter, or he would have had the happiness of remaining silent. “The recipe of Parliament” for governing a nation seems to him something like trying to take a ship round Cape Horn by unanimous votes of the crew, which, if on never so excellent a plan, will not do. Neither will a “Phantom Captain” do, but only a true captain. Of the ancient and French Republics which Democracy has founded, it is thought not needful to say a word; and if America strikes any one as an accomplished fact in the way of the argument, a mysterious bidding is given, “not to brag yet of our American cousins”—their social state is only “Anarchy plus a street-constable;” and their “battle is yet to fight.” This only is their greatness—that “they have begotten, with a rapidity beyond recorded example, eighteen millions of the greatest *boreas* ever seen in this world before—that, hitherto, is theirfeat in history!” So Mr. Carlyle apprehends, at last, that “Democracy is for ever impossible”—it is against the “Law of Nature and the ever-abiding fact,”—“the Universe is a Monarchy and Hierarchy.” The “Real Captain”—he is the only hope for us. Away, then, with “Voluntary Principle”—“Enfranchisement”—“Emancipation,” White and Black: and that no such vision may again startle you, or make stronger your heart-beat, study these things in the following caricature:—

“Among speculative persons, a question has sometimes arisen: in the progress of emancipation, are we to look for a time when all the horses also are to be emancipated, and brought to the supply and demand principle? Horses, too, have ‘motives’; are acted on by hunger, fear, hope, love of oats, terror of platted leather; nay, they have vanity, ambition, emulation, thankfulness, vindictiveness; some rude outline of all our human spiritualities,—a rude resemblance to us in mind and intelligence, even as they have in bodily frame. Him too you occasionally tyrannise over, and with bad result to yourselves among others; using the leather in a tyrannous, unnecessary manner; withholding, or scantily furnishing, the oats and ventilated stabling that are due. Rugged horse-subduers, one fears they are a little tyrannous at times. ‘Am I not a horse, and *half-brother*? To remedy which, so far as remediable, fancy—the horses all ‘emancipated,’ restored to their primeval right of property in the grass of this globe; turned out to graze in an independent supply-and-demand manner! So long as grass lasts, I daresay they are very happy, or think themselves so. And Farmer Hodge sallying forth, on a dry spring morning, with a sieve of oats in his hand, and agony of eager expectation in his heart, is he happy? ‘Help me to plough, this day, Black Dobbin: oats in full measure if thou wilt.’ ‘Hunh, no—thank!’ snorts Black Dobbin; he prefers glorious liberty and the grass. ‘Bay Darby, wilt thou not, perhaps?’ ‘Hunh!’ ‘Grey Joan, then, my beautiful broad-bottomed mare,’—‘O, heaven, she, too, answers ‘Hunh!’ ‘Not a quadruped of them will plough a stroke for me. Corn-crops are ended in this world!’ For the sake, if not of Hodge, then of Hodge’s horses, one prays this benevolent practice might now cease, and a new and better one try to begin. Small kindness to Hodge’s horses to emancipate them! The fate of all emancipated horses is, sooner or later, inevitable.”

To demonstrate yet further the uselessness of “Voluntary Principle,” and our “benevolent philanderings,” pauperism and distressed industry are brought forward,—and the poor needlewomen introduced into the picture; but to no better end than to record the fact, said by Mr. C. to be “the saddest thing of all,” that the workwomen employed by Mrs. Carlyle and her gossips at Chelsea, are not “real needlewomen,” and do further demand “considerable wages, and have a deepish appetite for beer and viands.” The evident cause of which is “no-government.” “Anarchy, anarchy,” everywhere!

Now, listen:—

“When shall we have done with all this of British Liberty, Voluntary Principle, Dangers of Centralization, and the like? It is really getting too bad. I, for one, move we should lay it on the shelf a little, and look out for something other and further. We have achieved British liberty hundreds of years ago; and are fast growing, on the strength of it, one of the most absurd populations the sun, among his great Museum of Absurdities, looks down upon at present!”

As a remedy, surely England “still contains in it many kings”—“England’s one hope is in them just now;”—they are therefore summoned by Mr. Carlyle in the names of England, “the Eternal Voices,” and himself. “But will they come, when you do call for them?” Meanwhile, settle it thus about “Universal Suffrage,” that there is “next

to no capability in it”—that it will choose Barabbas instead of Christ, and then—to “stumble ever downwards and devilwards, in their truculent stiff-necked way.” And when the kings come, accept it as your “everlasting privilege” and “first right of man,” to be governed by the “few wise,” who shall maintain themselves, and defend their rule “against all men and devils.” This is “the backbone of all future society.” Hear your character, O sons of poverty and toil! from the ideal Chief Governor or Prime Minister, called by Mr. Carlyle “from the vasty deep.”

“My be incompetent friends! know that, who ever may be ‘sons of freedom,’ you for your part are not and cannot be such. Not ‘free’ you, I think, whoever may be free. You palpably are fallen captive—caitiff, as they once named it:—you do, silently but eloquently, demand, in the name of mercy itself, that some genuine command be taken of you.”

And again:—

“You are fallen captive to bad and ever to worse; and at length to Beer and the Devil. Algiers, Brazil, or Dahomey, hold nothing in them so authentically slave as you are, my indigent incompetent friends!”

Then, finally, the “wandering banditti” thus addressed are called to “enlist,” and the New Millennium is to be ushered in by “Organization of Labour,” and a “Gospel of Work!” But, in case of failure, the “Real Captain” has still a resort—“I will at last shoot you,—and make God’s Earth, and the forlorn-hope in God’s Battle, free of you.”

We are glad to have done with these hideous convulsions of “a sick giant.” They are painful to witness, because people know that Mr. Carlyle is one of the strongest, and at heart tenderest, men of our times; the first of literary men, and the finest of writers of memoir and history. In this pamphlet there is nothing but might have been furnished from the “Chartism” and “Past and Present:”—the lurid lights are indeed more frequent,—otherwise, it might be called “Random Recollections of Thomas Carlyle, written by himself.” Of this production, as of the “Past and Present,” it may be said that, while reading it, “one can hardly credit, that the world had always the same bankrupt look to foregoing ages as to us—as of a failed world just re-collecting its old withered forces, to begin again and try and do a little business.” The monstrous exaggeration and habitual hypochondriacism which have always been the faults of the purest and most powerful works of Carlyle’s genius, are here literally “boundless, uncontrollable.”

The verdict we have to give is found in its own pages, and we give it in Carlyle’s own words:—“Sad temporary jargon, I say; made up of sense and nonsense,—sense in small quantities, and nonsense in very large;—and, if taken for the whole or permanent truth of human things, it is no better than fatal infinite nonsense eternally untrue.”

Lectures on the Religious History of the Slavonic Nations. By COUNT VALERIAN KRASINSKI. Edinburgh: Johnstone. London: Olivier.

This volume contains the results of much learning and research, in a large body of important and unusual information. The author is a Protestant, and well understands the influence of Protestantism on the political and social condition of a people. It is not a very readable book,—the style is verbose, circumlocutory, and involved. It must certainly be a valuable work of reference, for both the ecclesiastical and national historian.

Friendly and Feejee Islands: a Missionary Visit to various Stations in the South Seas in the year 1847. By the Rev. WALTER LAWRY, Wesleyan Missionary. With an Appendix containing Notices of the Political Constitution, &c., of the People. Edited by the Rev. ELIJAH HOOLE. London: Charles Gilpin.

HASTILY as this book seems put together, rushing at once in *medias res*, there is much valuable information contained in it concerning peoples of whom we know next to nothing. Some of its details of cannibalism and Feejeeism are very terrible: and that such anthropophagi should have been recovered to a common human nature with ourselves, and to the higher hopes of the Christian life, is a testimony to revelation which the sceptic may well ponder. It is much to be regretted that most missionary books are written in such a conventional style as to bar them from extensive circulation. Intelligent and benevolent men who may wish to know something of these remote parts should really have this information apart from details of love-feasts and extracts from Wesley’s hymns. The Appendix contains much general information, compiled, we presume, from the journals of the missionaries, altogether new concerning these far distant, and until lately totally degraded people. It is to be regretted that the orthography of places is not the same in the text and in the map; as it creates difficulties, especially to the young, who want always to know where the places are. Thus, Funualai in the text is rendered Vonualei in the map; Hapai is Haabai; Vewa is Rewa; Bau is Vou. This should be corrected if the work reaches a second edition.

An Examination of the Claims of the Free Church, as advanced by Dr. Buchanan in his “Ten Years’ Conflict.” By JOHN WILSON, D.D., Minister, of Stirling. Edinburgh: Paton and Ritchie.

OUR readers would not thank us if we led them into

the controversy to which this volume is devoted. Our spiritual sympathies with the Free Church were many, our political sympathies none. As Christians, their protest was almost sublime; as State-churchmen, their claims, in the Church, were as untenable as, out of it, their theoretic position is anomalous. The former involved a violation of their compact with the State; the latter is inconsistent and contradictory. Dr. Wilson is a fair and courteous controversialist; perhaps more so than some of his opponents,—and we commend his volume to those interested in the controversy. It has a further value, not its least—the statements made and defended are an instructive and suggestive contribution to the knowledge of the State-church question in all its aspects and bearings.

A new Elucidation of the Principles of Speech and Elocution. By ALEXANDER MELVILLE BELL. Edinburgh: W. P. Kennedy. London: Hamilton and Co.

We have no great familiarity with books on this subject, our knowledge being confined to Smart's Manual, and the small work in Chambers's Educational Course; so that we are little able to form a judgment on the comparative merits of the present work. It was undertaken to supply necessities felt in the author's daily practice as a professor of elocution. It is evidently the result of very laborious study, and presents not only practical exercises, but well-considered theories and principles; though we confess the system seems to us somewhat complex and difficult. The remarks on the "fatal ignorance" prevalent on the management of respiration, are well worthy the attention of all young public speakers.

The following books have also been received:—

A Voice from the Cloud of Witnesses: Letters Memorial of Mrs. Martin, of Whitefield Chapel. By her HUSBAND. London: Nisbet.—[An affectionate record of much religious excellence.]

Facts and Opinions, for Churchmen and Dissenters. By a SCHOOLMASTER. London: Partridge and Oakey.—[Anti-Tractarian and Anti-Patriotic.]

Five Years a Catholic: with Incidents of Foreign Convent Life. By ELIZA SMITH. London: Partridge and Oakey.—[A convert to Romanism here narrates the history of her re-conversion to Protestantism. It is superior to most books of its class.]

Gregory Krau; or the Window-shutter. Translated from the German of Dr. Barth, by the Rev. R. MENNER. Edinburgh: Paton and Ritchie.—[We cannot think this a well-chosen book for children. The Preface says to the child-reader—"Ask the heavenly Father for his Holy Spirit to help me to write little books for children." This is wretched stuff.]

The Moral Tone of the Factory System defended: in a Letter to the Lord Bishop of Manchester. By FRANKLIN BAKER, M.A. London: Gilpin.—[A reply to the Rev. H. Worley's Prize Essay on Juvenile Depravity; having claims to careful attention.]

Procrastination; or, The Vicar's Daughter. A Tale. Third Edition. London: Snow.—[A right-hearted book.]

Crime. By JOHN BAKER HOPKINS. London: Smith.—[Verily a "crime;" bombastic nonsense.]

The Faithful Promiser. Edinburgh: Paton and Ritchie.

What is Competition? London: Dyson.

Christian Baptism; or, Reasons for Renouncing Infant Baptism. By Rev. F. PRATHER. London: Green.

The Sacred Mountains. By J. T. HEADLEY. London: Collins.—[A series of sketches intended to embody the human history of the mountains of Scripture; suited to young people.]

The Teachers Friend; No. 1. London: Green.

Biblical Dictionary. By the Rev. S. GREEN. Re-issue, No. 4.

Florence Arnott; or, Is she Generous? Green's Juvenile Library.

The Domestic Worshipper; Prayers for Morning and Evening. No. 1. By the Rev. S. GREEN. London: Green.

The Preacher in Print: Sermons by the Rev. H. MELVILLE, B.D. London: Paul.—[Reprinted from the *Penny Pulpit* we presume; and likely to be very acceptable to those who can admire Mr. Melville's elaborated productions.]

Characters, Scenes, and Incidents of the Reformation. Part II. Tract Society Monthly Volume.

Companion to the Congregational Hymn Book; the names of three or four suitable tunes to each hymn. London: Ward.—[Our examination of the adaptation of the tunes to the hymns warrants our commendation of this publication to those using the Hymn-book for which it is arranged. A good index fits it for use with either of the eight well-known Tune Books. But it is a fault that not half of the tunes in the *Psalmist* are brought into use, and the chief beauties of that fine collection altogether omitted.]

Effectual Preaching: A Sermon by the Rev. J. NEW, Birmingham. London: Green.

Voices from the Garden; or, the Christian Language of Flowers. London: Partridge and Oakey.—[An effort "to improve" the beautiful idea of the language of flowers; executed with taste and intelligence, and pervaded by poetic feeling.]

The Bible; its profitable use. By G. H. DAVIS. London: Houlston and Co.

The Old Year and the New. By the Rev. W. W. DUNCAN. Edinburgh: Johnstone.

The Fourteenth Report of the London Society for the Protection of Young Females.

Observations on Chapel Debt Extinction. By W. BOWERS. London: Houlston and Co.

Honduras: a Record of Facts. By W. NIXON and F. CROWN. Printed by order of the Baptist Missionary Society for private circulation.

TAXES ON THE "TIMES."—The *Times* gives its taxes as rather more than £16,000 a-year for the paper, £60,000 a-year for the stamps, and £19,000 a-year for the advertisements: total, £95,000 a-year.

LITERARY MISCELLANY.

AN INTERESTING BRIDAL RACE.—The conditions of the bridal race are these:—The maiden has a certain start given, which she avails herself of to gain a sufficient distance from the crowd to enable her to manage her steed with freedom, so as to assist in his pursuit the suitor whom she prefers. On a signal from the father all the horsemen gallop after the fair one; and whichever first succeeds in encircling her waist with his arm, no matter whether disagreeable or not to her choice, is entitled to claim her as his wife. After the usual delays incident upon such occasions, the maiden quits the circle of her relations, and, putting her steed into a hand-gallop, darts into the open plain. When satisfied with her position, she turns round to the impatient youths, and stretches out her arms towards them, as if to woo their approach. This is the moment for giving the signal to commence the chase, and each of the impatient youths, dashing his pointed heels into his courser's sides, darts like the unhooded hawk in pursuit of the fugitive dove. The savannah was extensive, full twelve miles long and three in width; and as the horsemen sped across the plain, the favoured lover became soon apparent by the efforts of the maiden to avoid all others who might approach her. At length, after nearly two hours' racing, the number of pursuers is reduced to four, who are altogether, and gradually gaining on the pursued. With them is the favourite; but, alas! his horse suddenly fails in his speed; and as she anxiously turns her head, she perceives with dismay the hapless position of her lover. Each of the more fortunate leaders, eager with anticipated triumph, bending his head on his horse's mane, shouts at the top of his voice, "I come, my Peri! I'm your lover." But she, making a sudden turn, and lashing her horse almost to fury, darts across their path, and makes for that part of the chumnum (plain) where her lover is vainly endeavouring to goad on his weary steed. The three others instantly check their career; but in the hurry to turn back two of the horses are dashed furiously against each other, so that both steeds and riders roll over the plain. The maiden laughed (for she well knew she could elude the single horseman), and flew to the point where her lover was. But her only pursuer was rarely mounted, and not so easily shaken off. Making a last and desperate effort, he dashed alongside the maiden, and, stretching out his arm, almost won the unwilling prize; but she, bending her head to the horse's neck, eluded his grasp and wheeled off again. Ere the discomfited horseman could again approach her, her lover's arm was around her waist; and amidst the shouts of the spectators they turned towards the fort.—*Captain Burslem's Peep into Toorkistan.*

THE AGE OF REPTILES.—There was a sublimity spread over the features which the earth now presented. Sterile mountains had arisen from the ocean, and wide continents were spread out like the shattered ruins of a fairer land. Rocks were piled tumultuously upon each other firm in their immensity. From the sea-encompassed lands volcanic fires were belched forth, and dark and heavy vapours floated over the vast waters. From the mountain ranges similar convulsions were visible, and torrents of burning ashes were spread over the far extending valleys. Wide plains were broken up like a billowy sea by the earthquake struggling of the giant mass,—and huge clefts were formed across them, through which rivers of lava poured their fiery streams. Amid these grand and terrible catastrophes were seen numerous varieties of animal life; and all bore some analogy to the physical conditions of the disturbed abode. Heat and chemical forces, unchecked by any bonds, in the wildness of their energies, exerted their transmuting powers on the inorganic creation and the organic creation, and the organic world was formed in strength to resist the destructive agency of these mighty influences, and created to the enjoyment of violent appetite. Huge froglike monsters move sluggishly, or with convulsive efforts, over wide swamps; rapacious saurians came up from the foaming rivers, and contested, with the inhabitants of the land, the right to the smaller animals with which it teemed. Savage was the warfare, and long the strife, between these monstrous creatures. From the cavernous recesses of the mountains—in the vast abysses which, from their exceeding depth and darkness, appeared to extend to the earth's centre—was heard the wild bellowsings of rapacious amphibia, and the cries of anguish from their struggling victims. Bird-like reptiles floated over the rioting sea, and flapped their leathern wings against the crag of the mighty precipices, which were the barriers of the continents and islands. Ravaging fishes darted like lightning through the waters, flashing back the sun's rays in a thousand sparkles from their bare and scaly armour; and amid them, forms of exceeding beauty, cased in symmetric and most endearing shells, floated in security.—*Pantaea: the Spirit of Nature.*

MUD VOLCANOES OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN SWAMPS.—Sometimes, on the margin of the swamps, the moistened clay is seen to blister and rise slowly in a kind of mound; then with a violent noise, like the outbreak of a small mud volcano, the heaped-up earth is cast high into the air. The beholder acquainted with the meaning of this spectacle flies, for he knows there will issue forth a gigantic water snake or a scaly crocodile, awakened from a torpid state by the first fall of rain. Extreme dryness produces in plants and animals the same phenomena as does the withdrawal of the stimulus of heat. Many tropical trees and plants shed their leaves during the dry season. The crocodiles and other amphibious

animals hide themselves in the mud, where they lie apparently dead, like animals in a state of hibernation, or plunged into winter sleep by cold.—*Humboldt's Aspects of Nature.*

GLEANINGS.

A quantity of meat has been roasted on the railway near Leighton Buzzard by a truck's catching fire. By the time the train stopped at the station most of the meat was cooked.

The great chess match between London and Amsterdam for 100 guineas, commenced nearly two years ago, has terminated in favour of London, the Dutch resigning at their fiftieth move.

The cook of a Modern Athenian, who lately purchased a cod for her master's table, found, on cutting it open, that she had got fifteen full-grown herrings into the bargain.

The Times states that in 1848, out of 5,000 loads of cotton sent down from Panwell to Bombay by an eminent firm, 2,000 were dropped on the road, and the remainder arrived too late for shipping; while, in the same year, 20,000 loads were left behind between one single market of the Nagpore district and the sea.

The Great Northern Railway will be opened the entire distance between London and York in July next.

An old lady in Holland, whose sole occupation was housewifery, scrubbed her sitting-room floor until she fell through into the cellar.

The words "kersey," "linsey," "worsted," are borrowed from villages in the south-east of England. "Blanket" was the name of a Bristol man, the first weaver of blankets.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Evening Post* remarks on the largeness of the members' heads in the House of Representatives, while the *Boston Chronotype* thinks them less remarkable for largeness than for thickness.

The subscriptions to John Knox's monument amount as yet only to the sum of £2,300. Two thousand pounds more are required to enable the committee to purchase the house of the reformer.

In an article in one of the London journals, it is stated that, during the last two years, it has been calculated that chloroform has been used in from 80,000 to 100,000 cases in the city of Edinburgh, and without an accident or bad effect of any kind whatever traceable to its use.

The Earl of Harewood has actually issued an ukase. After some nonsense about his village of Harewood being overcrowded, the illustrious potentate's ukase runs thus:—"Notice is hereby given, that any cottager, being a tenant of the Earl of Harewood, who shall from the date hereof take in any lodger, or whose son or daughter shall marry and bring home to the cottage wife or husband, without having previously obtained permission from the Earl of Harewood, shall receive notice to quit, which notice will be strictly enforced; and, if in the employment of the said earl, shall be discharged."

The *Liverpool Albion* has the following among its records of the storm of February 6:—"On the Isle of Man so violent was the gale that it led to the well-known windmill at Castletown being destroyed by fire. The wind forced round the sails, and consequently the machinery, with such rapidity that the friction set the mill on fire, and the entire building with its outhouses was consumed."

OBSTINACY REWARDED.—Mrs. Houston relates in her "Hesperas" an anecdote of an Englishman, travelling in the United States, who refused to surrender the best seat in a stage-coach to a woman; whereupon the innkeeper yoked his horses to another vehicle, and was about to send it off without our countryman; but, sacrificing his pride, he jumped out and took possession of an inferior seat. He was wiser than a poor wight in Leicester, who, a dozen years or more ago, having taken an inside seat which did not belong to him, and refusing to budge, was troubled with few words by mine host of the Stag and Pheasant. Bohiface got out another coach, to which he had the luggage transferred; and when everybody but the immovable passenger was ready for the start, the guard blew the preluding blast, and off went the horses. Our circumvented hero kept his seat; all the town heard of his obstinacy; Humberstone-gate was crowded with the curious, peeping in at "the man." Night fell, and the coach was wheeled into the inn-yard. Still he stuck to the inside berth which he had sworn not to surrender. The establishment went to bed, leaving him alone with his uncomfortable thoughts; and in the morning, when Boots looked into his "bed-room," it was empty. "The man" had sneaked off under cover of night, and he was never heard of more.—*Gateshead Observer.*

PANCAKES.—Such was the demand for milk in Bursley, on Shrove Tuesday, for the purpose of making pancakes, that so much as a halfpenny and a penny a pint above the usual price was offered for it.

POETRY.

A WISH.

BY A TILLER OF THE SOIL.

Give me a cottage by a brook,
In some sequestered vale;

The rose and jasmine entwined

To screen the passing gale.

Give me enough of daily bread,

Lord, from thy bounteous store,

To cherish life, and feed the poor

Once trembling at the door.

Give me a book with blessed truths

To fortify the soul;

And give me faithful Anna's smile,

With love to crown the whole.

Enough, enough, I ask no more;

All else would I resign.

Content with these, I'd fix my hope

Beyond the wreck of time.

NELSON'S DAUGHTER.—The *Liverpool Albion* of Monday week says:—"A most singular circumstance has to-day been brought to light in connexion with this subject, by the Rev. Erskine Neale, who, in a new chapter of the second edition, just published by Bentley, of his interesting little work, 'The Lifebook of a Labourer,' shows that Horatia, about whom all the world has been hearing so much, was not Lady Hamilton's daughter at all, but the daughter of a woman who had never been suspected, who had married well, the mother of a family, and person of considerable consequence. This is the statement to the author by Horatia herself, now the wife of a clergyman, made partly from her own knowledge, as Lady Hamilton never exacted nor received the duty of a daughter from her, and partly from Mr. Hazlewood, a solicitor, of Brighton, the confidential adviser of Nelson, and the depository of all his secrets, but who would not tell her who her mother really was, saying that the disclosure of the secret, to which he had pledged himself to Nelson, her father, would do no good, but would cause infinite misery to a happy, united, and distinguished family. This surely completes the romance of the most romantic life of Lady Hamilton."

COMMITAL OF THREE MEN FOR MANSLAUGHTER.—A revolting case of manslaughter has occurred recently at Tong, a village near Bradford, Yorkshire. The deceased is a married female, named Margaret Daggan, aged about 40, and the mother of three children. From habits of dissipation she had frequently become amenable to the laws, at Bradford, where she resided, but apart from her family. Her last period of imprisonment for drunkenness terminated a few days ago, and when on her way home she called at a public-house at Tong, where, in the company of several men, she indulged to excess in her former habit, left the house in company with some of the party at a late hour, and her dead body (still warm) was next morning found in an adjacent field. She had been brutally ill-treated, and perished from cold during the night. Three of the men, named James Coates, George Coates, and R. Farrar, who reside in the locality, were afterwards apprehended, and were on Tuesday week, brought before the magistrates at Bradford on a charge of murder, but the medical testimony ascribing death, not to the external marks of violence, but to exposure to the cold, they were committed to York assizes for manslaughter.

SUPPLY OF WATER TO THE METROPOLIS.—A numerous and highly respectable meeting of the inhabitants of the parish of St. Pancras was held on Thursday last, at the Castle Tavern, Kentish-town, to take into consideration the best means of obtaining a supply of pure water for the metropolis. The chair having been taken by Mr. J. Clarke, the meeting was addressed by several gentlemen, and resolutions unanimously passed, after an able explanation by Mr. Paten of the inexhaustible resources of the springs in the neighbourhood of Watford, approving of the plans of the company, and pledging themselves to support them. The meeting repudiated the notion of trusting the supply of water to the Government, and insisted on the control of the parish or district authorities.

[ADVERTISEMENT].—COUGHS, COLDS, BRONCHITIS AND INFLUENZA.—During the prevalence of unsettled weather, fogs, and damp air, the glottis (at the upper part of the windpipe), and the windpipe itself, take on inflammatory action, which gradually extends along the mucous coat until it reaches the bronchial tubes, which penetrate the lungs, giving rise to a distressing cough, expectoration, spasmodic pains of the chest, and often, if unchecked, ending in fatal pulmonary disease. In other cases, the inflammatory action occurs in the sinuses of the head and face, causing watery eructation, redness of the eyes, and a stinging sensation at the extremity of the nostrils. This is the epidemic termed *Influenza*. Bronchitis is inflammation of the mucous membrane which lines the bronchi in its whole extent. It commences as a common cold in the young and middle-aged, and continues a month or two, and returns every winter with increased severity. It is sometimes erroneously called winter cough, and sometimes Asthma; in Hooper's Physician's *Vade Mecum*, edited by Dr. Ryan, it is candidly stated that they (the medical profession) did not know any effectual treatment for these disorders. Since that work was compiled a new substance has been introduced, *Brande's BRONCHIAL SEDATIVE*: the influence of this substance pursues the exact track of the inflammatory action causing cough. First soothing the glottis and epiglottis (the organs of voice), its pedative influence passes along the mucous lining of the windpipe unto the bronchi, allaying pulmonary irritation, giving ease and comfort to the chest, and restoring the voice to its accustomed clearness and power. In confirmation of what has been adduced we shall quote the opinion of M. Michon (a celebrated French physician), recently published in the *Reptertoire de Pharmacie, Paris*:—"I have frequently taken occasion to exhibit this substance in cases of bronchitis, chronic catarrh, pulmonary phthisis, asthma, and other affections of the chest; I must say, I have derived highly favourable results from its application. The action which this medicine exercises upon the respiratory organs seems to be both stimulating and sedative; it abates the violence of the cough, and diminishes or relieves altogether the oppression of the chest, by facilitating expectoration. I feel even inclined to believe that it exercises a special action (AND SUCH AS NO OTHER REMEDY IS KNOWN TO EXERCISE) upon the respiratory organs. Some facts that have come under my personal notice have convinced me that *Lang's* was perfectly justified in his assertion that it stops the spitting of blood, and arrests the formation of pulmonary tubercles." This medicine is, without doubt, the only cure for these disorders. Since its introduction, it has been rapidly supplanting every other preparation administered for pulmonary disorders. The proprietors strongly urge the Medical Profession, Chemists, and others, to introduce it to the afflicted. It is sold by most respectable Chemists, and by all the Agents for *Brande's Enamel*.

THE EMPEROR'S TOOTH.—In Madame Tussaud's exhibition is shown, among other relics of Napoleon Bonaparte, a decayed tooth. The Emperor was much afflicted by tooth-ache, which greatly distressed him in several of his campaigns. The pain was sufficient to subdue even the Emperor, whose victories in arms had spread terror through the whole world, and he was obliged to have three teeth extracted. The tooth which Madame Tussaud exhibits, displays a curious spot. It is placed under a glass case, and by its side lies the instrument by which it was drawn. The Emperor and the instrument have alike passed away. *Brande's Enamel* for filling decayed teeth, and rendering them sound and painless, has superseded this tooth for the other.

BYGONE WINTERS.—The following is an extract from the *Newcastle Chronicle* of Jan. 29, 1780:—"On Monday, a funeral passed over the ice at Cocks-green, on the river Wear, to Washington church. It appears by chronological tables, that England has been visited by long and severe frosts in the years 1638, 1661, 1684, 1708, 1716, 1739, 1771, 1774, 1776. On the 29th of December, 1739, the mercury in the thermometer fell to 25 degrees below freezing point, when there was an uncommon hoar, and the air so sharp and penetrating as to render it difficult for strong persons to endure the cold, and vegetables in general suffered very prodigiously. But on the 14th of January, 1780, the mercury was 39 degrees below the freezing point." The *Gateshead Observer* adds that, "In the year 220 Britain endured a five months' frost; in 250 the Thames was frozen nine weeks; in 291 most of our rivers were frozen six weeks; in 359 Scotland had fourteen weeks of frost; in 508 the rivers of Britain were frozen up above two months; in 695 the Thames was frozen six weeks, and booths built on the ice; in 760 a frost began which endured from Oct. 1 to Feb. 26; in 827 a nine weeks' frost; in 859 and 860 the Adriatic and Mediterranean were frozen over; in 908 most of the English rivers were frost-bound; 923, 987, and 998, frosts set in which lasted many weeks; on Midsummer-day, 1,036, grain and fruit were destroyed by frost; 1063, 1076, 1114, 1205, 1207, 1234, 1294, 1296, 1306, 1323, 1349, 1402, 1408, 1423, 1459, 1420, 1434, were all years of severe frost. In 1718 a fair was held on the Thames, and again in 1814. In the latter year the Tyne was frozen to the depth of twenty inches." The frosts of 1739 and 1780 endured—the former 103 days, and the latter 84.

BIRTHS.

February 19, in St. John's Wood, London, the wife of Mr. R. BROWNS, of a daughter.

February 15, at Eastbourne, the wife of Mr. S. HALL, of a daughter.

January 18, at Mansfield, Notts, the wife of the Rev. W. LINWOOD, of Sydenham, Kent, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

February 9, at Trinity Chapel, East India-road, by the Rev. G. Smith, Mr. ROBERT BROWN to Miss EMILY GOWER, both of Poplar.

February 12, at the Congregational Chapel, Swanage, Dorset, by the Rev. R. Chamberlain, Mr. FREDERICK THOMAS HUNTER to Miss MARY ANN SEAMAN, both of Swanage.

February 12, at the United Presbyterian Chapel, Blyth, Northumberland, by the Rev. D. Carmichael, Mr. W. G. S. HALL, second son of Lieutenant J. Hall, R.N., of Blackheath, to ELLEN, second daughter of M. GRAY, Esq., shipowner, of Blyth.

February 14, in Hope-street Independent Chapel, Wigan, by the Rev. E. Jukes, of Blackburn, Mr. ROBERT BARBOUR, draper, of Bury, Lancashire, to ANNIE, second daughter of Mr. CARTWRIGHT, corn-merchant, of Ashton-in-the-Willows.

DEATHS.

February 9, at his residence, Tottenham, aged 72, Captain JOHN CLARK, R.N., brother of the late Rev. George Clark, of Fonders End.

MONEY MARKET AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

CITY, TUESDAY EVENING.

Since the settlement of the account of the English Funds have been very depressed. Consols for money have been at a discount of nearly one and a half per cent. from last week's quotations; but prices for the next account have ruled more favourably. The political events transpiring on the Continent have had some influence in depressing the market, but since the publication of the statement that the Danish armistice had been prolonged, and that a settlement of our difficulties with the Greek Government may be confidently expected, stocks have recovered a little of their former elasticity, and the market has been much firmer in tone. There appears to be at present, however, very little prospect of any great improvement in English securities. The financial returns for the past year, together with the returns of trade and navigation, are certainly favourable for a slight increase, as they will tend to confirm the public confidence in the future prosperity of our commerce; but the same statements also tend to draw off the money of capitalists from public securities for investment in trading speculations, and, to the extent that this is effected, to counteract the influences in favour of a rise. Bank Stock has risen during the past week; Exchequer Bills have declined. The following table shows the progress of the Funds:—

	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday.	Sat.	Mond.	Tues.
3 per Ct. Cons.	95 1/2	95 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2
Cons. for Acct.	—	—	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2
3 per Ct. Red.	95 1/2	95 1/2	94 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2
New 3 per Ct.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Annuities...	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2	98 1/2	97 1/2	98 1/2
India Stock ..	263	263	—	—	—	267
Bank Stock ..	—	206 1/2	206 1/2	—	—	206 1/2
Exchq. Bills ..	58 pm.	54 pm.	54 pm.	57 pm.	57 pm.	57 pm.
India Bonds ..	88 pm.	—	88 pm.	88 pm.	88 pm.	88 pm.
Long Annuit.	8 9-15	8 9-16	8 11-16	—	—	8

The Foreign Market has been very active. Peruvian and Mexican are still in greatest favour; the former being now at 82 1/2, and the latter 30 1/2. Portuguese have declined to 34 1/2. Russian script continues to decline, the last quotation being 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 premium. A few weeks ago it was at more than 4 per cent.

The Share Market has been fluctuating and heavy. All the lines are quoted at a decline, the North Western taking the lead in consequence of the inauspicious statement concerning the dividend just declared. Hitherto the meetings seem to have had comparatively little influence over the market. A dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. was carried at the Great Western meeting, 5 per cent. at the Leeds and Bradford, and 10 per cent. at the Great North of England. The list of directors proposed by the London committee for the Caledonian Railway has been approved. The best that

can be said of it is, that it differs in all important respects from the old directory, and may therefore be favourably received.

PRICES OF STOCKS.

The highest prices are given.

BRITISH.	Price.	FOREIGN.	Price.
Consols.....	95 1/2	Brazil	89 1/2
Do. Account	95 1/2	Ecuador	4
3 per Cent. Reduced	95 1/2	Dutch 2 1/2 per cent.	55 1/2
3 1/2 New.....	98	French 5 per cent.	—
Long Annuities	8	Granada	18 1/2
Bank Stock.....	206 1/2	Mexican 5 per cent.	29 1/2
India Stock	267	Portuguese	34
Exchequer Bills—		Russian	109 1/2
June	57 pm.	Spanish 5 per cent.	18 1/2
India Bonds.....	88 pm.	Ditto 3 per cent.	36
		Ditto Passive.....	8

THE GAZETTE.

Friday, Feb. 15.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 9th day of Feb., 1850.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Notes issued	30,125,385
	£30,125,385
	£30,125,385
	£30,125,385

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Proprietors' Capital 14,500,000	Government Securities (including Dead Weight Annuity)
Rest	3,817,603
	14,296,534
	Other Securities ..
	9,712,765
	Gold Coin & Bullion 15,848,308
	Silver Bullion
	277,077
	£35,438,139
	£35,438,139

Dated the 14th day of Feb., 1850.

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

Old-street Chapel, Old-street, St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.

BANKRUPTS.

BLACKBURN, DAVID, PICKLES, THOMAS, and BLACKBURN, WILLIAM, Wadsworth, Yorkshire, cotton spinners, March 5, April 9: solicitors, Mr. Hobson, Halifax; and Messrs. Cariss and Cudworth, Leeds.

DESFORGES, ABRAHAM DESFORGES WILLEY, Alford, Lincolnshire, brickmaker, March 6, April 3: solicitors, Messrs. Portington, Alford, and Bunney, and Mr. Wilson, Hull.

HEIGHOTHOLM, THOMAS SKELTON, Scarborough, Yorkshire, painter, March 5, 26: solicitors, Messrs. Robinson and Greene, Leeds.

JOHNSON, FREDERICK, Lincoln, watchmaker, Feb. 27, March 27: solicitor, Mr. Andrews, Lincoln.

NOBLE, RICHARD, and MAY, ALMONDURY, Almondbury, Yorkshire, fancy cloth manufacturers, March 5, April 8: solicitors, Mr. Floyd, Huddersfield; and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds.

PARRY, HUGH, Abergale, Denbighshire, druggist, March 1, 28: solicitor, Mr. Dod, Liverpool.

PRICE, JOHN, Birmingham, cabinet maker, February 28, March 26: solicitor, Mr. Cheshire, Birmingham.

S

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 IN RELATION TO THE
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"To all who feel an interest in the progress of religion, this volume will afford materials for much thoughtful meditation. It is characterised by an earnestness, and pervaded by a spirit of true remonstrative Christian philanthropy, certainly not exceeded by any production of the present age; and we believe that the benefit derivable from its careful and candid perusal by the pastors and members of Christian churches, will be in proportion to its circulation among them, which we cannot help thinking will be, at least ought to be, very extensive."—*Edinburgh News*.

"In taking our leave of Mr. Miall, which we do with regret, we tender him our best thanks for the good service he has rendered by the publication of this volume. Much as he had previously done, this is undoubtedly his best work. It displays to great advantage the special qualities of his mind—is at once cool, transparent, and earnest, fearless in its exposition of the views embraced, and eminently skilful in the reasonings by which they are supported. There is, moreover, an entire absence of asperity and dogmatism from its pages. The deep seriousness of the themes discussed has had a healthy influence on the author, and his treatise is in consequence earnest, yet candid, explicit in its sentiments, yet catholic in its spirit, an able exposition of what is deemed the truth of God, without a particle of that bitterness which theological discussion too frequently engenders."—*Eclectic Review*.

"We thank Mr. Miall for this most seasonable and effective contribution to the cause of British Christianity, and again commend the book most cordially to the devout perusal and study of all who wish well to 'Zion.' In our judgment it is a far more rational and far more Scriptural exposition of the theme on which it treats than anything yet addressed to the consideration of the public. In this book, we doubt not, the real causes of spiritual barrenness are truly indicated, and even if some objections may be validly urged against a few points of detail, the religious world is no less deeply indebted to the author of so opportune a volume."—*Bradford Observer*.

"The author manifests a striking originality and force of thought, a clear and distinct comprehension of the difficulties which surround his theme, and an earnest, unflinching determination to elucidate truths, however unpalatable, and however much opposed to our preconceived notions of what ought to be done by the churches, and how it ought to be done. We are not disposed to think that Mr. Miall has in any degree overshot the mark in regard to the lack of spiritual vitality in the churches generally, neither do we think him far mistaken in the causes which operate to produce it; but we do not hesitate to say, that in very many instances he has stated truths unpalatably, which might have been more effectively stated in a milder form."—*Scottish Press*.

London: ARTHUR HALL, VIRTUE AND CO., 25, Paternoster-row.

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It will be found very effective in cleaning glass, the crust from port wine bottles, and all kinds of grease and dirt from windows, as also pewter pots and metallic wares.

The cleansing properties of the Washing Fluid are so simple and economical, that no family should fail to use it.

Two pence saves Ten pence worth of Soap.

A WEEK'S WASHING COSTS TWO PENCE!

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